Daily Report

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FBIS-NES-94-053 *18 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Expresses Concern Over Jerusalem Status *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects U.S. Plan for 'Arafat-Peres Meeting *[AFP]* 1
'Arafat Comments on Clinton Call To Resume Talks *[MENA]* 2
'Arafat Delivers Address To Palestinian People *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Arafat Receives Letter From Russian Leadership *[Tunis Radio]* 4
'Arafat Meets Vatican Foreign Affairs Official *[Tunis Radio]* 4
Sha'th: UN Resolution Required Before Talks *[Jerusalem International]* 4
Qaddumi Sees U.S. Impartiality in Question *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Mar]* 5
Qaddumi on Rabin-Clinton Meeting, 'Israeli Enemy' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
Al-Khatib on Rabin U.S. Visit, Clinton Remarks *[Cairo International]* 7
Figures Assail U.S. Stance in Security Council *[AL-QUDS 17 Mar]* 7
'Ashrawi on Rabin-Clinton Summit, Palestinian Police *[Jerusalem TV]* 8
Hamas to Jewish Settlers: Leave or 'Face Attacks' *[AFP]* 9
Hamas Action in Territories Only 'Matter of Time' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Mar]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Security Forces Kill 7 FIS Members; Imam Murdered *[Algiers Radio]* 10
'High-Level' Bribery, Negligence Cited in Jailbreak *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Mar]* 10

Egypt

Clinton Phones Mubarak on Mideast Developments *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Mubarak, U.S. Official Discuss Jerusalem's Status *[Cairo TV]* 10
Groups, Officials View Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks 11
Remarks Seen as Shift in U.S. Stand *[AL-WAFD 15 Mar]* 11
NPUG Denounces Comment *[MENA]* 11
U.S. Official: Remarks 'Fabricated' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Mar]* 11
Commentary Accuses U.S. of 'Sponsoring Terror' *[AL-AKHBAR 9 Mar]* 12
Islamic Groups Vow To Avenge Executions *[AFP]* 12

Libya

Charges of Country Having Mass Destruction Weapons Denied *[JANA]* 13
Wife of Missing Diplomat Appeals to al-Qadhdhafi *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Mar]* 13

Sudan

Government, Factions To Hold Talks in Nairobi *[SUNA]* 13
Leaders Arrive *[Nairobi Radio]* 14
Agree To Peace Talks *[AFP]* 14
Kenya's Moi Opens Peace Meeting *[Nairobi TV]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemen

Shabwah Governor, Security Director Ordered To Leave *[MENA]* 16
Reform Official Warns Against 'Foreign' Partition Plan *[INA]* 16
Son of Parliament Speaker Escapes Assassination Bid
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Mar] 16

IRAQ

GUARDIAN Reveals Plans for 'Surprise' Military Strike *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
'Aziz Meets Vorontsov, Other Security Council Envoys *[INA]* 17
'Aziz Sends Letter to UNSC on Sanctions *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
UNSC President Cited on Respect for Resolution 715 *[INA]* 19
'Mammoth' Demonstrations Reportedly Held *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Papers View Adoption of 'Another Path' To End Blockade *[INA]* 20
Paper Questions 'Usefulness' of Abiding by UN Resolutions *[INA]* 20

ISRAEL

Rabin, 'Arafat Discuss Resumption of Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Rabin Promises to SHAS Mentor Detailed *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 22
Peres on 'Arafat Meeting, IDF Base Relocation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
IDF Evacuation of 2d Gaza Base Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Soldiers' Testimony Contradicts 'Accepted' Version *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
New Jewish Underground Issues Ultimatum to Rabin *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Mar]* 23
Waqf Closes Temple Mount to Non-Muslims *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Commentator Views 'Goldstein Tax' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Mar]* 24

JORDAN

Rabin's Statements in U.S., Status of Talks Viewed *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 17 Mar]* 25
Paper Criticizes UN Stand Toward Embargo on Iraq *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 18 Mar]* 25

LEBANON

Judge Issues Warrants for Suspected Church Bombers *[VOM]* 26
Al-Hariri Leaves for Paris on Private Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 26
Lebanese Forces Members Named in Assault Case *[VOL]* 26
Membership of Subjects Denied *[RFL]* 26

SYRIA

Reports, Commentaries Note Clinton-Rabin Talks 27
'Arafat Urged To Resume Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 27
Radio Views Rabin's Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 27
Al-Shar' Reacts to Meetings *[London MBC TV]* 28
Syrian Official Urges U.S. Pressure on Israel *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Mar]* 28
Radio Reports League Statement on Jerusalem *[Damascus Radio]* 28

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 29
Guardian Council Approves New Budget Plan *[IRNA]* 29
'Secret' Report Says 11 Dead, 500 Wounded in Clashes *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Mar]* 30

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Expresses Concern Over Jerusalem Status

NC1703142394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Mar 94

["The Arab League and Jerusalem"—MENA headline]

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat today expressed its grave concern over recent media statements on Jerusalem.

In a statement it issued today, the Arab League Secretariat affirmed its stance rejecting these statements because they contradict international resolutions, primarily Security Council Resolution 252 issued in 1968, which asserts the legal status of Jerusalem and stresses that any measures aimed at changing Jerusalem's status are void.

It pointed out that this resolution calls on Israel to immediately stop any acts that lead to changing the status of Jerusalem.

The Arab League Secretariat statement clarified that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles stipulated that Jerusalem is one of the issues that will be discussed during the coming stage of the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

The statement affirmed the Arab League's concern about the peace process and its support for all the international and regional efforts aimed at establishing a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

The statement noted the U.S. President and Administration's concern over the need to make 1994 a year of peace in the Middle East.

The statement recalled the stances of successive U.S. Administrations affirming the special status of Jerusalem by considering it occupied territory the fate of which no single party has the right to decide unilaterally. They also affirmed the need to respect its religious and legal status as the cradle of "all divine religions."

[Earlier, Cairo MENA in English at 1310 GMT on 17 March transmits an unfinished item on the Arab League commenting on Jerusalem. Like the above report it is numbered 135 on the MENA file, but is entitled "The Arab League and Clinton's Statement." It starts out by noting the following: "The Arab League Secretariat today expressed its grave concern over statements in various media, including Israeli, on remarks by U.S. President Bill Clinton and his vice president on Jerusalem.

["The Arab League Secretariat affirmed in a statement it issued [item incomplete as received]]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects U.S. Plan for 'Arafat-Peres Meeting

NC1803065794 Paris AFP in English 0205 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, March 18 (AFP)—The Palestinian leadership rejected Thursday [18 March] night a US proposal for a meeting Sunday between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a PLO official told AFP.

Samir Ghawshah, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, said US envoy Dennis Ross had made the suggestion in a telephone call to 'Arafat.

'Arafat has called for an "urgent" meeting of PLO leaders to take stock of the situation after intense diplomatic activity this past week.

The United States has been trying to persuade the PLO to resume talks with Israel on implementing the historic accord on limited Palestinian autonomy they signed in Washington last September 13.

The PLO broke off negotiations after a Jewish settler gunned down some 30 Muslim worshippers at prayer in the West Bank town of Hebron on February 25.

'Arafat on Thursday also received messages from the Russian and French governments, spoke by telephone with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and met with Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Terje Larsen.

Ghawshah stressed that the PLO was sticking to its demand for "the adoption and application of a (United Nations) resolution guaranteeing international protection" for Palestinians on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO leadership reiterated its conviction that Jewish settlers should be removed from Hebron and that any renewed negotiations focus on the status of Jewish settlements in the territories.

"Our people can no longer trust American promises and will never agree to continued negotiations in the present situation," Ghawshah said.

But he added that the PLO would draft its official position following a UN Security Council meeting scheduled for Friday.

Ghawshah cited a Norwegian proposal under which joint Israeli- Palestinian patrols, supervised by international observers, would ensure security for the Palestinians.

But he said the idea had been turned down by Israel, which would only accept the presence of observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

[In an earlier, related report, Paris AFP in English at 2340 GMT on 17 March adds the following: "PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a message Thursday from Russian leaders handed to him by the Russian ambassador to Tunis Boris Shchiborin, the Palestinian agency WAFA reported.

["The contents of the message were not specified, but WAFA said the two men discussed a UN proposal to provide protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

["WAFA said 'Arafat and Shchiborin discussed 'contacts made to activate a decision by the UN Security Council concerning the Hebron massacre.'

[" 'Arafat also received a message from French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe expressing the 'solidarity and support' of France, the current Security Council chairman."]

'Arafat Comments on Clinton Call To Resume Talks

NC1703125194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 17 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said he can provide no answers regarding the Palestinian position on U.S. President Bill Clinton's call to the PLO to resume the talks with Israel.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Louis Tauran, 'Arafat said that what is needed is a response by the U.S. Administration, the United States [as received], and Russia, who are the cosponsors of the peace conference, and the Security Council to the just demands of the Palestinian people, namely, international protection for our children, women, men, masses, and the Islamic and Christian sacred places. He added: I ask the U.S. Administration to release the Security Council resolution it has been detaining for 19 days by not allowing a vote at the Security Council. He added: Our people and the rest of the world have a right to hear the Security Council opinion on the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

'Arafat noted that this massacre committed by extremist settlers against worshippers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque for no reason cannot be the work of a mentally disturbed person, as Israel says. He asked: The commission of inquiry noted that the murderer fired 111 bullets, but how could 111 bullets kill or wound over 200 people?

'Arafat stressed that more than one person must have participated in the crime. He asked: Why didn't the Israeli army, which was stationed in front of the mosque when Israel took over the place and turned it into a Jewish synagogue, interfere? Where were the Israeli guards, who are present night and day, at the time of the crime?

'Arafat added another question: Are we facing a new secret organization within the Israeli Army or is the entire Israeli Army involved? I want a clear, explicit answer before I give any answers about the Palestinian position, he concluded.

'Arafat Delivers Address To Palestinian People

LD1703201294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Address by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the Palestinian people; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]. O brothers, O my kinfolk, O masses of our struggling people, O revolutionaries, strugglers, and mujahidin of our struggling people. I am addressing you to express my pride, and that of your brothers in the Palestinian leadership, at this splendid steadfastness and this courageous attitude that shows the great nature of our people, especially at times of trial and difficulties. After the hideous slaughter perpetrated by the killer settlers and the occupying army, our entire people rose to defend its existence, sanctities, dignity, and its hope while waiting for the moment to end the hateful Israeli occupation, the imposing of the national authority stage, and then the forming of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

I am addressing you in the sincere and clear words of those who have borne the trust and, at the same, have stood ready to sacrifice their lives for our people to secure its future, dignity, freedom, and independence. I tell you with all brotherhood and frankness—given the importance of persistence and steadfastness in these difficult days in which we must always ignore the attempts by some to spread programmed rumors and a climate of frustration and despair—I tell you with all frankness that we are facing one of the fiercest battles at a time when our people, under the PLO leadership, is forcefully knocking at the doors of independence and freedom, and at a time when the international community is looking forward to seeing the Palestinian rights realized with the rhythm of successive events. This is one of a series of our battles that we have been continuously fighting since the first bullet was fired on 1 January 1965, a fact that was crowned with the outbreak of the great national Intifadah that is continuing and escalating, and which will continue and will further escalate until the objectives of our people are realized, i.e. to end the occupation and realize the independence and freedom for our people, land, and sanctities.

The settlements were, and still are, one of the obstacles that faced us and still faces us in our talks with the Israelis.

The international community and decisions stand beside us in connection with these settlements that are an obstacle on the road to peace, therefore, our faith was never shaken for a moment that it would be the fate of these settlement to disappear, and the fate of the settlers would be to depart from our land because what was based on a myth was void in origin.

Events have proven the truth of our stance and international public opinion realized the enormity of this matter, and the issue of disarming the settlers became the prelude for the dismantlement of the settlement and its removal from our land.

This cooperation between units from the Israeli Army and armed settlers that we are now facing is the same as the one that our Algerian brothers faced during the first and second Evian talks.

We confronted this ordeal in the same way as we have previously faced numerous ordeals. It had only strengthened our faith and belief in the strength of our right and the justice of our aims.

In the past, we have suffered a great deal. This suffering consolidated our belief and conviction in the strength of our right and the legitimacy of our goals. Consequently, we

stressed this stance, as dictated by national responsibility, regarding the need to provide international protection for our people; and to bring the international community face to face with its responsibilities and confront this terrible plan.

While we were engaged in a diplomatic battle inside the UNSC [UN Security Council] to arm ourselves with an international resolution; and while we were discussing it within the Palestinian leadership, and debating the ways to deal with this battle; some people, who are professional in sowing chaos, were pronouncing unjust verdicts and writing false statements. We did not pay attention to their fabricated lies because we have been, and still are, refusing to be dragged into marginal battles. We have, and still consider that the battle against the occupying enemy forms the basis for the confrontation against the occupiers; rather than the deliberate sowing of confusion by all the enemies of the Palestinian dream, the Palestinian homeland, and the Palestinian existence [Koranic verse].

Brothers, I would like to say that we have remained loyal to the trust, promise and pledge; the pledge and promise of the pure innocent martyrs. The honor of responsibility warrants us to stand steadfast against all trials and incidents whose impacts can only strengthen our faith, might, and resolve. At times of suffering and challenges, we should all stand united, with a united heart, we should think in a responsible way and search for all methods of confrontation, including resorting to help from international public opinion and the international legitimate institutions, foremost of which is the United Nations, international and Arab institutions such as the Arab League, the Nonaligned Movement, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], the OAU [Organization of African Unity], and all our friends around the world.

This is a savage battle brought about by the Hebron massacre, the Jerusalem massacre, the 'Ayn Garah massacre, the massacre of Sabra and Shatila, Dir Yasin, and also the difficult confrontations in Jinin Rafah, the Triangle [as heard], al-Nasiraha, and al-Naqab.

We have suspended negotiations with the Israelis, and we have clearly stated that these negotiations will not resume until our people receive all guarantees for international protection, the dismantling of settlements that threaten to sabotage the peace negotiations, and to punish the perpetrators of the crime.

The battle will not stop at that level because we have a lot of details that lie ahead of us, and on our agenda are fateful issues that require fair solutions in order to consolidate the just peace. At the fore of these issues is the issue of Jerusalem that America refuses to mention in the Security Council's resolution, the issue of the refugees, the dismantling of the settlements, the borders, the gaining of total national independence, and the creation of our independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Among the urgent issues is the issue of our brothers who are detained in the occupation prisons. We will not rest easy nor will we close our eyes to sleep before we ensure the freedom of all of them so they can contribute to the battle of building our national authority and our independent state. We had strongly rejected all enemy attempts to divide them or to classify them. We had also rejected the freeing of Fatah detainees alone, although they were the majority of the detainees and insisted on the same treatment for all of them as they are all sons of Palestine and the beloved of Palestine.

I address you at these difficult moments and ask you to stand in one [solid] rank to face up to this new situation resulting from the attack of the herds of settlers, with the collusion and planning of some enemy army units, on the unarmed civilians while performing their holy prayers at the holy al-Ibrahimi mosque during the blessed month of Ramadan. I appeal to the sons of our people everywhere to close ranks and to realize the national unity and to be as the heart of one man at time of difficulty and trial, for we are the people of martyrs, the people of the revolutionaries, the people of Mujahidin, and to cast out of their ranks all those who incite sedition and division. For despite this dark night the light of dawn is sure to come. Dawn and victory is certainly coming. [passage omitted]

The Israeli soldiers are still escalating their oppression, aggression, and crimes that include opening fire on women, children, and old people. Israel continues to violate the Declaration of Principles, and it is our right to resort to all legitimate methods, to retaliate, and to seek favorable prospects. (It is our right) to quell the plots by circles against peace in the Israeli military establishment, by the armed settlers whose hands have been let loose more than at any previous time, to cause destruction, and to spread chaos in an attempt to stop the wheel of history.

We truly want peace but we refuse to surrender. We want just peace and we reject surrender and subjugation, just as we refuse to transform the peace agreement into an submission agreement. I tell you that Palestinian blood will not be cheap. It is the blood that lights the flame of our struggle [Jihad] and our fight that has not died down and, with God's help, will not die down.

Because of our loyalty to that blood, we will take all measures and stances made necessary by the higher national interests for our people. Greetings to all our steadfast sons in Hebron and in every corner of our beloved homeland. [passage omitted]

In these days, during which humanity celebrated International Woman's Day, on 8 March, the heroic Palestinian woman was standing with steadfastness under the ceiling of fire [as heard], bidding farewell to the martyrs with ululations and confronting the occupiers, their bullets, and their oppression with rage and sacrifice. Salutations to the great Palestinian woman, and we pledge that she will, in the coming years, celebrate her festival in the comfort of a free, independent, and democratic homeland for a free and revolutionary people. Brothers and sisters, I renew to you the pledge, and I renew to you the promise, and I tell you that tragedies will only increase our strength, faith, and firmness; the hammer breaks the glass, but forms iron [into

something useful]. We have made quick strides and offered thousands of martyrs, and we will not stop the struggle in all its forms before our people receive all their rights. Let the victorious march continue; the road to an independent state still requires sacrifice, struggle, and suffering from us, but it is our will, which cannot be defeated, and our determination, which cannot be dented, to do so. Blessed be you, O our people; blessed be you, O our people, O people of generosity and sacrifice; blessed be you, O people of martyrs. [passage omitted] It is revolution until victory.

'Arafat Receives Letter From Russian Leadership

LD1803093794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] President 'Arafat received another letter from the Russian leadership yesterday evening. The letter was handed to him by the Russian ambassador in Tunis, with whom he discussed the latest developments and the current consultations aimed at speeding up the adoption of the UN Security Council draft resolution which has been outstanding for over 19 days. This draft resolution calls for the condemnation of the Hebron massacre, the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people, the disarming of settlers, and the introduction of the necessary arrangements to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, particularly in Hebron.

'Arafat Meets Vatican Foreign Affairs Official

LD1803094794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has renewed the PLO's appeal to the co-sponsors of the peace conference and the members of the Security Council to respond to the Palestinian people's request for international protection in the occupied territories. 'Arafat renewed this appeal when he received Jean-Louis Tauran, official in charge of foreign affairs at the Vatican, in Tunis yesterday.

The Palestinian president also insisted on the need for the Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning the massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs and providing international protection for the Palestinian people. In reply to a question on the Palestinian response to President Clinton's call for a resumption of talks, 'Arafat said that he wants a frank reply before making any answer on the Palestinian position on this matter.

The Palestinian news agency reported yesterday evening that President 'Arafat and the Vatican envoy discussed ways of strengthening relations between the Palestinians and the Vatican and providing international protection for the Palestinian people from the attacks and massacres perpetrated by Israeli settlers. They also discussed the role of the Vatican in supporting the peace process on the basis of safeguarding Palestinian rights, particularly the issue of holy Jerusalem, which is important to Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians alike.

Sha'th: UN Resolution Required Before Talks

JN1703172594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1550 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel, by Sa'id Mu'addi, place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have called on Yasir 'Arafat to resume the negotiations without preconditions. What is your comment?

[Sha'th] My comment is that we are not setting impossible conditions, nor do we want to delay these negotiations. We are aware that these negotiations are our path to a just peace. In other words, these negotiations are the way leading to the beginning of the Israeli troop withdrawal and the arrival of the Palestinian police force. In the long run, this is the genuine security tool for our Palestinian people and all regional states. We are not setting difficult or impossible conditions. We would not have asked for the issuance of a UN Security Council resolution setting a mechanism of specific security measures if it had not been for this appalling massacre in Hebron. Such a resolution could have been issued two weeks ago. There has been a two-week delay in the issuance of the resolution. Tomorrow, this resolution will be put to the vote. Those who want a swift resumption of the negotiations should see that this resolution is approved by the UN Security Council tomorrow, Friday, so we can begin implementation of the mechanism of security measures and so we can return to the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] What point have the consultations, contacts, and efforts to resume the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations reached?

[Sha'th] Efforts are continuing on all levels. Contacts were held in Tunis last week with Dennis Ross, an Israeli delegation, a Russian Foreign Ministry envoy, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry envoy, and others. Here in Egypt, too, contacts are being led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Efforts are also continuous in Washington. All efforts aim at securing the resumption of the negotiations. However, this resumption must be accompanied by security measures, which are neither irrelevant, difficult, nor impossible. Such measures are necessary to provide security for the Palestinian people so we can go ahead with the peace process.

[Mu'addi] Is the Palestinian side awaiting the UN Security Council resolution and a U.S. response to the Palestinian demand?

[Sha'th] The issuance of the UN Security Council resolution with U.S. approval is a very important matter. This is because this resolution includes some executive measures, including the responsibility of the United States and Russia in their capacity as the cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference, in following up the implementation of

these measures. Therefore, we believe that the issuance of this resolution tomorrow will provide an important opportunity for meeting our demand to resume the peace process and achieve security at the same time.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposed that Palestinian policemen who resigned during the intifadah be recalled so that they may be deployed in the Hebron area. What is your comment?

[Sha'th] As I said before, many of the measures that have been taken by Prime Minister Rabin and the Israeli Government are part of a sound orientation toward admitting that the Palestinian people face a real security problem. However, the proposed solutions are not the required ones. For example, regarding the Palestinian police force, why should we recall previous Palestinian policemen when the Declaration of Principles [DOP] we signed in Washington provides for the deployment of a Palestinian police force affiliated with the Palestinian authority throughout the West Bank and Gaza—in Gaza to implement the agreement and in the West Bank to implement so-called early empowerment. We want to see the DOP implemented. Its implementation should begin with the immediate deployment of the Palestinian police force instead of recalling old police personnel, some of whom, anyway, could be fit to join the new police. This is desirable.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much for this interview.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Qaddumi Sees U.S. Impartiality in Question

PM1703162794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Rafiq Khalil Ma'luf, Raghidah Dirgham, and 'Ali Nun: "Qaddumi Stresses No Return To Negotiations Before Measures Are Taken To Protect Palestinian People"]

[Excerpts] Washington, New York, London—President Bill Clinton yesterday renewed his urgent call for a resumption of the peace process in the Middle East on the Palestinian track and the other Arab tracks. He said that he had discussed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin the means of returning the PLO and Israel to the negotiating table, "because we must not allow the enemies of peace to triumph."

PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) has said in a statement to AL-HAYAH that the PLO will not resume the negotiations with Israel until the necessary measures are taken to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the Palestinian leadership told Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, when he came to Tunis that deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories and the escalating tension "can only be stopped by practical measures on the ground to provide complete protection for Palestinian civilians, because the horrific and inhuman Hebron massacre has implanted fear and damaged the credibility of the peace process as a whole."

He stressed that the PLO insists on an international presence in Hebron as part of the required measures, "but the United States continues to hesitate over giving decisive approval to the draft Security Council resolution stipulating an international presence in all the occupied territories, including Hebron."

Commenting on Peres' remark that Israel will agree to some measures once the PLO agrees to return to the negotiations, Qaddumi pointed out that the Palestinian leadership "does not trust the promises made by Israeli officials, as Peres has already made numerous promises but none of them has been fulfilled. And Israel violated the declaration of principles agreement and delayed withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, saying that the dates were not sacred. So we do not trust what they say until and unless it is implemented on the ground. Because 42 families and four centers must be evacuated and moved from Hebron elsewhere, and the presence of international forces is a must, as we have said."

He also said that the PLO had raised with the U.S. envoy its request to put a Palestinian police force into Hebron with the international force and to remove the Nitserim [as transliterated] settlement in the Gaza Strip, in addition to two other settlements—one near Jericho and the other near Hebron itself.

Qaddumi revealed that the Palestinian leadership had rejected a U.S.-Israeli request to hold a tripartite meeting in Tunis "between us, Ross, and an Israeli delegation that included Uri Safir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, Jaques Neriya, and General Uzi Dayan. We refused to do that, lest it be said that negotiations were being conducted."

He also revealed that the Palestinian leadership had rejected an Israeli request to hold a meeting between Peres and 'Arafat or PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) in Washington. He said: "In return, we asked them to take practical measures on the ground before negotiations and after the Security Council has adopted a resolution on the Hebron massacre. They told us that they were not authorized to give an answer, although Peres is so authorized. We told them that Peres—as happened in Oslo, Cairo, and Davos (Switzerland)—has always said that he is 'not the boss' but has then gone on to the Knesset to claim several victories. It means that the Israelis are playing the game of allocating roles and have no desire for peace. In fact they are doing their best to win further concessions from the Palestinians."

Qaddumi said that the Palestinian side had told the Israeli envoys that "the Army participated and colluded in the Hebron massacre but they denied it. Then we asked them why it had committed a massacre uglier than the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre immediately after that took place, claiming the lives of 39 martyrs. They said that the

Army had been tense. So we told them that this was an excuse uglier than the crime."

He stressed that Ross openly told the Palestinian leadership that Washington "cannot approve the Security Council resolution until you announce your willingness to return to the negotiations, and President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher are pledged to reject any resolution on Jerusalem."

Qaddumi announced that "most regrettably, we fear that some of the reports published by the Israeli press today (yesterday), namely that Clinton wants to announce that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel [sentence as published]. If that happens, we say that the peace process is over. Because it will mean that he has violated one of the peace process' foundations and has undoubtedly ceased to be an impartial broker with whom we can deal."

Asked whether his statement meant that the PLO would withdraw from the negotiations if Clinton announced that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel, Qaddumi told AL-HAYAH: "Yes, we would withdraw from the negotiations, because Washington would have violated the foundations on which they were launched."

Qaddumi expects "things to drag on" before the negotiations are resumed. "Because Israel is procrastinating and throwing dust in people's eyes."

Responding to Rabin's announcement of his willingness to evacuate the Hebron settlers, Qaddumi said that "if that is true, it means fulfilling or trying to fulfill part of the requirements for security and peace, which involve disarming the settlers and accepting an international presence sponsored by the two co-sponsors of the peace process, in order to provide protection and safety for Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories." [passage omitted]

Qaddumi on Rabin-Clinton Meeting, 'Israeli Enemy'

JN1703211794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Interview with PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-Lutf, by radio correspondent Salah Salamah, place and date not given; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department: The situation in the occupied territory is still exacerbating. Anger still prevails there after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The Security Council has not yet adopted a resolution condemning the massacre or meeting the minimum level of Palestinian demands. U.S. President Bill Clinton received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, but the meeting produced nothing that meets Palestinian demands. What are your expectations following the Clinton-Rabin meeting?

[Qaddumi] After studying and scrutinizing the situation, and following the talks between Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Clinton, it is clear that Israel does not intend to take measures that will provide the necessary protection for our people. Therefore, we expect psychological tension to increase and fabricated local differences to escalate. The Israeli enemy will create seditions and local differences, as it did previously when it faced such impasses. It will practice the ugliest forms of repression and coercion. It will strike at our national unity and social cohesion to cover up the crimes committed by the settlers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. It will claim that Palestinians cannot run their own affairs or maintain their national security, in order to prolong the occupation and to (?implement) its plan in the occupied territory.

I believe the overall fabricated incidents that have taken place in some areas in the West bank and Gaza over the past few months show the Israeli plan to create internal conflicts is being implemented. Therefore, we—as individuals and groups inside the occupied territory—must be patient in tackling the local events and not resort to weapons at all in tackling political and social differences. Only the Israeli enemy benefits from this.

[Words indistinct] the entire Palestinian leadership categorically rejects the use of weapons against any Palestinian citizen and stresses the need to resort to officials and wise men to prevent any bloodshed. Prophet Muhammad prevents Muslims from fighting each other.

Therefore, we expect the Israelis' reaction to be negative, because they agreed with the United States not to take any measures. This means they are moving toward dealing a blow to the whole peace process. There will be no peace in the region.

[Salamah] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, Yitzhaq Rabin called from Washington, and today from Rome, for a speedy resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians. He also stressed the need to resume negotiations with Syria and the other Arab parties to the peace negotiations. In your view, what are the prospects for the Middle East peace process, in light of the available facts?

[Qaddumi] Yitzhaq Rabin has narrowed the chances for peace in the region. It seems that, with U.S. consent, he is going ahead with his scheme of striking at the political settlement and terminating the honest international efforts to boost the peace process. He postponed withdrawal and used immense pressure to control security at the crossings. Israel does not want peace. It continues to devour the land and commit crimes against Palestinian citizens. Israel has lost its so-called democratic face. It is a racist state, just like South Africa.

[Salamah] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, after it surfaced that there are major difficulties facing the Oslo agreement and that this agreement will not be implemented as scheduled on 13 April, in your view, is there a possibility that the Palestinians might give up on the Oslo agreement and return to the formula of collective Arab dealing with the Middle East peace process?

[Qaddumi] What is the point of going ahead with the Oslo agreement if Israel violates most of its articles? This cannot be called an agreement. They want the Palestinian people to succumb. They want to prolong the occupation.

Therefore, they have torn the agreement into pieces with their heinous behavior and their terrorist practices. I believe that after this massacre, which has been completely condemned by the world, the world has a major responsibility to maintain peace and security in the region and to preserve human rights. It must be noted that every day, Israel hammers more nails into the coffin of the Oslo agreement. Israel proposed the agreement. Now it is trying to bury it.

[Salamah] What is the alternative, brother Abu-al-Lutf?

[Qaddumi] The constant alternative is continued struggle, whether or not there is an agreement. As long as an Israeli soldier occupies Palestinian territory, it is our right to defend ourselves. This is a sacred right approved by international law and the UN Charter.

[Salamah] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, thank you for this interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

[Qaddumi] Thank you, brother Salah.

Al-Khatib on Rabin U.S. Visit, Clinton Remarks

NC1803075894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Miliji] The visit to the United States by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has triggered Arab reaction. How do the Palestinians view the visit and where do they stand on the results that have appeared?

[Al-Khatib] First, not all the results of the visit have appeared. It is clear that some issues were discussed but not publicized. The two sides announced that they agreed on several issues, which have not been publicized fully. So it is hard to make a final judgment on the outcome of the visit. The results announced so far fall short of meeting the minimum demands or needs that the Palestinian leadership put forward as urgent prerequisites for resuming negotiations and guaranteeing their success should they be resumed soon. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government has unfortunately failed to cooperate in convincing Israel to respond to these demands. Hence, the Israelis are not serious and the U.S. stance backs them.

[Al-Miliji] You said that the Palestinian leadership conveyed these demands. Were they conveyed during the visit to Tunisia by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations?

[Al-Khatib] These demands were conveyed earlier, through the Palestinian delegation that visited Washington.

[Al-Miliji] The delegation that Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat led?

[Al-Khatib] Yes. The day after the massacre a meeting was held between Dr. 'Urayqat and representatives of the U.S. State Department. The demands were conveyed during that meeting. They were also conveyed to Dennis Ross, during his visit to Tunisia, and were directly conveyed to Rabin more than once.

[Al-Miliji] Has the Palestinian leadership received no response?

[Al-Khatib] It received a reply from Rabin saying that the demands concerning settlement cannot be met because this would violate the Oslo agreement. He added that the Israeli Government would take a set of measures to curb the settlers' terrorist activity. These measures were announced later following a meeting of the Israeli inner cabinet.

[Al-Miliji] What about the U.S. response?

[Al-Khatib] There is no direct or material U.S. response. The U.S. Administration has shown no understanding of these demands. But there was no direct rejection.

[Al-Miliji] Some believe the PLO can resume the peace negotiations and submit these demands for discussion at the negotiating table. What do you think?

[Al-Khatib] I do not believe this approach will work. To return to negotiations without defining the basics that take note of the recent tragic experience will again involve us in negotiations that waste time uselessly. To make the resumption of talks feasible, the bases of the negotiations must be amended so that the issues pertaining to settlements can be addressed.

[Al-Miliji] We now turn to another topic, that is, honorable Jerusalem and the U.S. President's remarks that viewed it as the united capital of Israel. This is the first time a U.S. President has made such a statement. Do the Palestinians have an official stance on that statement?

[Al-Khatib] Certainly. First, it constitutes a backing down on the previous U.S. stance. In the context of preparations for talks, as well as during the talks, the U.S. stance provided for postponing discussion of the issue of Jerusalem until the final stage. Second, this stance violates and is inconsistent with the UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. We have recently noticed that the United States has tended to take Israel's side. We believe that this complicates rather than facilitates negotiations. We believe there should be critical reaction, not only by the Palestinians, but also by the Arab and Muslim parties, since Jerusalem concerns all Arab and Muslim brothers.

[Al-Miliji] We thank Ghassan al-Khatib.

[Al-Khatib] Thank you.

Figures Assail U.S. Stance in Security Council

TA1703165994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p 5

[By 'Izzat Daraghmah]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Palestinian leaders and personalities in the occupied territories have described the U.S. position on the adoption of a Security Council resolution condemning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre on 25 February as a position "that is biased and dishonest. The United States cannot be accepted as a sponsor of the negotiating process because it defends Israel, its positions, and justifications. The responsibility for this massacre falls on the Israeli Government and Army, which controls all the Palestinian territories."

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Washington, said: The United States cannot be a sponsor of the conference because this requires honesty and credibility, and this is what the current U.S. Administration lacks.

'Urayqat added that delay on the issuing of and voting on a resolution condemning the massacre has been caused by the position of the United States, Israel's strategic ally. On the first day of the massacre, the United States said: "We will see you at the Security Council if you are insisting that it issue a resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre". However, the United States backed down as a result of Israel's recommendation and linked the issuance of that resolution with the PLO's consent to resume the talks.

For her part, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, head of the first Palestinian juristic organization for monitoring the Palestinian authority on human rights, considered the U.S. position as an attempt at blackmail by using the Security Council resolution as a means to pressure the PLO to return to the talks.

She added: The sign that is more serious than all this is that, as we are constantly aware, U.S. intervention has always been in the Israeli interest and against the Arabs in order to give Israel the opportunity to dictate what it wants and to protect Israel from the consequences of its actions. Even more serious than this is that there are real indications of a shift in U.S. policy regarding Jerusalem. I believe that if the United States changes the Security Council draft resolution, whereby that resolution will become ineffective and useless with respect to Jerusalem, and if it uses the veto, this will be proof of a grave U.S. challenge to UN resolutions and of a fundamental shift in respect to Jerusalem. This will greatly alter the credibility of the United States as a sponsor, because then it cannot be a neutral sponsor.

'Ashrawi stressed that if the Security Council resolution is similar to previous ones, there will be no need to issue a new resolution. She said that the United States itself is in favor of this sort of approach and attitude.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the reformers in the PLO, said: The Security Council resolution stemming from the criminal act of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre must contain certain requirements, most important of which are providing protection for the Palestinian people and achieving credibility. The Palestinian people are well aware of this.

For his part, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian radio and television organization and advisory member of the Palestinian delegation, said: We believe that the massacre that took place in Hebron represents a grave and bloody threat to the safety and security of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This requires international protection and consideration of the PLO's position calling for the presence of an international protection able to curb the Jewish settlers and extremists, because this has become very necessary. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on Rabin-Clinton Summit, Palestinian Police

TA1703193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has stated that the results of the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton do not constitute a positive indication for returning to the negotiating table. Dr. 'Ashrawi made these remarks in an exclusive interview with our correspondent Kayid Zahir:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] In fact, the outcome was what we had expected. It was a U.S. attempt to support the Israeli position without moving in a practical and effective manner to change the situation on the ground. Clearly, the Israeli position dominated the Clinton-Rabin summit. The practical steps about which President Clinton talked in a general manner have not been worked out so far and there are no indications that those steps will be translated in practice on the ground.

[Zahir] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, does the Palestinian side support the idea of introducing Palestinian police into Hebron?

['Ashrawi] As we have heard, this is a Palestinian stance by the Palestinian leadership. Perhaps with the introduction or movement of Palestinian security forces into these areas some security will be established, but as we know there is a dual law, there is the possibility of settlers using weapons, and there is a tense and explosive situation. I do not believe that the Palestinian police alone can maintain security and stability, but this is a step in the right direction.

[Zahir] A step in the right direction despite the fact that sovereignty will remain an Israeli sovereignty under the Israeli Defense Forces authorities?

['Ashrawi] There cannot be a Palestinian police force or security forces bound by an Israeli decision, especially as in the accord there are issues relating to the Palestinian police and security forces. I do not believe security will be established by increasing the Palestinian police, Palestinian security forces, or other forces. Security is established by addressing the causes of the conflict and the explosion. It is clear that the Israeli settlement presence is the main cause of instability.

[Zahir] What do you think of the Palestinians' boycott of the Israeli commission of inquiry?

['Ashrawi] I support the presentation of Palestinian evidence before this commission, before any other commissions, and before the media and public opinion because the revelation of facts is in our interest. We always work publicly and overtly and in order to reach the truth, because anyone who possesses information cannot benefit from it if that information remains with him. This information must be revealed. In my opinion, going before this commission is a positive thing.

[Zahir] Dr. Hanan, despite the statement by the Supreme Islamic Council to boycott this commission?

['Ashrawi] This is a decision by the Supreme Islamic Council and we respect their decision, but that does not prevent me from expressing my own private opinion. I am expressing my own personal view.

[Zahir] Maybe there have been Jordanian instructions to the Awqaf in East Jerusalem?

['Ashrawi] In my opinion, the decision must be a Palestinian one and related to Palestinian interests. Dealing with facts responsibly and publicly is fundamental and one must act accordingly. [end recording]

Hamas to Jewish Settlers: Leave or 'Face Attacks'

NC1603163194 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, March 16 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas told Jewish settlers to leave settlements in the occupied territories quickly or face attacks, in a new warning released here Wednesday [16 March].

"The settlers must leave the settlements quickly, otherwise our fighters will strike them," the fundamentalist group said in a statement.

The statement did not set a specific deadline.

On March 7 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, gave settlers until March 15 to leave four settlements in the occupied West Bank—Tekoa, Kyriat Arba', Ar'iel and Keddumim—and Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas also declared the 25th of each month to be a day of strikes and protests to remember the 30 Palestinian worshippers shot dead by an Israeli settler in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs on February 25.

The fundamentalist group also called on all Palestinians to pray at the al-Aqsa mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem on March 18 in an act of defiance against the Israeli authorities.

Since the massacre the army has banned Palestinians from the occupied territories from visiting Israel proper.

Hamas Action in Territories Only 'Matter of Time'

PM1703170994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Hamas: Al-Qassam Squads Will Carry Out Their Threats"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources have stated that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Squads intend to carry out their threats "against the occupation presence in the occupied territories" and emphasized that implementation of such operations is only a matter of time.

The sources made these comments to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after the expiry of Hamas' deadline to the Jewish settlers and occupation forces, after which it said it would deal painful retaliatory blows to them. It is believed, however, that the tightened measures and precautions have made it difficult to carry out such operations, particularly as the Israeli leadership has taken into consideration the possibility of such operations by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Squads—the military wing of Hamas—to avenge the martyrs of al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Algeria

Security Forces Kill 7 FIS Members; Imam Murdered

LD1703222594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Still on the subject of public order, six terrorists guilty of the murder of the chief of [word indistinct] of Fillaoussene in the Wilaya of Tlemcen, have been shot dead. Two of the six terrorists have been identified. They are Benoua Mohamed, an activist of the former FIS, who was at the head of a group of a dozen terrorists: he was in particular responsible for the murder of the [word indistinct] of Beni Mansour. The second terrorist has been named as Benoua Bouzid, a cousin of Boualem Benoua, son of a Harki and member of the FA, Fraternite Algerienne, and main organizer of the Afghan networks operating between Peshawar in Pakistan and Teheran, according to the latest information released by the security services.

A terrorist was killed yesterday in the Eucalyptus, municipality in Algiers. Abdou Ahmed was responsible for the murder of several citizens and of three members of the security forces in the Eucalyptus and in Bourouba.

The imam of the mosque of [name indistinct] in the Wilaya of Jijel was murdered yesterday by two gunmen at about 2125 GMT as he left the mosque.

'High-Level' Bribery, Negligence Cited in Jailbreak

PM1803095894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Justice, Interior, and Defense Ministries Trade Accusations Over Tazoult Operation"]

[Excerpts] Tazoult (Algeria), AL-HAYAH—The committee investigating the attack on Tazoult prison in Batna Wilaya completed its field investigations yesterday and returned to the Algerian capital.

President Major General Liamine Zeroual is expected to address the nation in a few days to announce "crucial decisions" in the light of the committee's report and other factors. It was striking yesterday that the Justice, Defense, and Interior Ministries, of which the investigation committee is comprised, accused one another of negligence—which led to the production of three reports, instead of one.

Military units continued their combing operations in search of some 900 prisoners who escaped when scores of gunmen attacked Tazoult prison last Thursday.

AL-HAYAH yesterday saw scores of wounded escaped prisoners who were moved to Aress Hospital (50 km east of Batna) after the security forces pursuing them had shot them. Explosions were heard in the mountains and helicopters were seen flying over the area. It has been learned that the combing operations have been moved to Batna city itself, including the university campus and the area around it. As is known, the area is Maj. Gen. Zeroual's birthplace.

Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that the investigation committee comprises nine members representing the Justice, Defense, and Interior Ministries. The committee recorded "important observations" about the negligence that took place before and during the attack on the prison. [passage omitted]

It is not ruled out that measures may be taken against officials at the three ministries at various levels. One source expressed amazement at the inclusion of the director of the Justice Ministry Prisons Department in the committee, especially as he is one of those accused of negligence. The source also accuses the Defense Ministry of failing to carry out its duties. He also stresses that Justice Minister Mohamed Taguia informed all parties of the matter but they did not carry out their duties.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the regime has opened the Justice Ministry file and discovered that "high-level circles at the ministry are accused of bribery and favoritism." These accusations are based on "firm evidence" to a large extent linked to what happened in Tazoult prison and other prisons. It has been learned that the investigation committee also recorded the disappearance of Minister Taguia and his senior aides during the four-hour attack on Tazoult, and none of them went to the site.

Egypt

Clinton Phones Mubarak on Mideast Developments

NC1803065894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton last night during which they discussed developments in the Middle East region, the talks Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held during his visit to the United States, and the efforts being made with the various parties concerned to maintain the peace process.

President Mubarak highlighted the importance of preserving the lawful rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories by enforcing measures that provide for their safety and protection.

Mubarak, U.S. Official Discuss Jerusalem's Status

NC1703171894 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has received Mr. Timothy Wirth, adviser to the U.S. Department of State on population and environmental affairs [title as received]. The meeting was attended by Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of population and family affairs, and Mr. Edmond Hall, first secretary at the American Embassy in Cairo. [passage omitted]

[Begin Mahran recording] [Former] Senator Wirth is a highly respected figure in the United States, an expert in population and environmental affairs and a close adviser to U.S. President Clinton. He met with the president this morning and various topics were discussed. The major objective of his visit is to view Egypt's preparations for the international conference on population. [passage omitted]

Actually, the Middle East issue and the statements that were reported regarding the status of Jerusalem two days ago were also raised. He affirmed to the president that the United States' stance on Jerusalem has not changed whatsoever. That matter will be raised when discussions or negotiations take place. The U.S. Government's stance regarding Jerusalem has not changed. He wanted to confirm this in his interview with the Egyptian television. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Groups, Officials View Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks

Remarks Seen as Shift in U.S. Stand

NC1803120894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial: "A New Balfour Declaration, The American Way!"]

[Text] Since the start of the Arab-Israeli conflict, not a single U.S. administration has dared to publicly recognize Jerusalem as Israel's unified and eternal capital. The official position of all the U.S. administrations in all written documents has left the future of Jerusalem up to all parties to decide as part of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

But unfortunately, it seems that U.S. President Bill Clinton has a different view that conflicts with the firm position of all the past U.S. administrations. The U.S. President has surprised us by making this serious shift in position in remarks that were carried by Israeli radio. He made the remarks during a meeting with leaders of the Zionist-U.S. lobby at the White House on the eve of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington. Clinton has found in himself the courage to explicitly say that he considers Jerusalem to be Israel's eternal and unified capital of Israel and to pledge to obstruct the issuance of a Security Council resolution condemning the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque if it referred, even indirectly, to Jerusalem as part of the occupied Arab territories.

It is Clinton's right to appease the Jews and to give them any U.S. concessions that he wants in terms of weapons or money, but he has no right, under any circumstances or with any justification, to pay for these concessions out of the Arabs' pockets and at the expense of their sacred sites and their inalienable historical rights in Jerusalem. Clinton has picked the worst time ever to go public with his real position, because it looks like a reward to Israel for committing the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

We have a right to question the credibility and the seriousness of the U.S. efforts to promote peace. So far, these efforts have resulted in nothing but a series of concessions that the United States makes to Israel at the expense of the Arabs, whether they like it or not.

NPUG Denounces Comment

NC1703165594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] party has denounced the statement attributed to U.S. President Bill Clinton that his country considers unified Jerusalem with its Eastern and Western sectors the capital of Israel.

In a statement it issued today, the NPUG notes with deepest feelings of resentment that this U.S. statement in support of the policy of aggression and the annexation of the occupied territories comes at a time when world public opinion is unanimously condemning the criminal massacre that Israel committed at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

The NPUG called on the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization to adopt a firm stand on this new escalation of the attacks on the rights and dignities of the Arabs and Muslims.

U.S. Official: Remarks 'Fabricated'

PM1803105894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report from Muhammad Sadiq in Washington and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Cairo: "Washington: Israel Fabricated Clinton's Statement on Jerusalem"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration yesterday denied the statement attributed to President Bill Clinton that he considered Jerusalem to be the unified capital of Israel. A U.S. State Department official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "President Clinton's position on the issue of Jerusalem is the same as that of former presidents, and it is firm and has not changed."

He pointed out that the allegations made in this connection were "wrong, fabricated, and inaccurate." He emphatically drew attention to what President Clinton said at his press conference the day before yesterday that "the question of Jerusalem is up to the parties to decide, and the Declaration of Principles says that a decision on that will be made in the final stage, and that is what we think should be done."

The official said that "the report was a fabrication by the Israeli media." He said he hoped that "the media would be accurate and truthful in their reporting."

The U.S. official also denied similar statements attributed to Vice President Albert Gore.

The issue was raised after President Clinton's meeting last week with Steven Crossman, chairman of the American-Israeli Political Action Committee [AIPAC], the most

influential Jewish organization in the United States, but U.S. official sources have stated that the issue of Jerusalem is not a matter for speculation and that the position on it is clear and has already been stated.

Timothy Wirth, U.S. State Department adviser on population, environment, and terrorism, stressed yesterday that the U.S. position on Jerusalem is firm and that the U.S. Embassy cannot be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem because the question of the capital is one of the issues to be resolved in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He referred to President Clinton's statement at his joint press conference with Rabin on the U.S. firm position on Jerusalem. He stressed that the CNN report claiming Clinton stated that Jerusalem was Israel's capital was untrue.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday received the U.S. State Department's adviser on population, environment, and terrorism in the president's office at Heliopolis.

In the first Egyptian reaction, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that he saw Clinton's statement as a political and tactical one. He added that if the statement meant a new U.S. policy on Jerusalem, then Egypt would be in total disagreement with that policy. He said that the U.S. Embassy in Israel is still in Tel Aviv and has not been moved to Jerusalem yet.

Musa added: Jerusalem is a part of the occupied Arab territory and we reject any Israeli measures Judaizing it or making it Israel's eternal capital.

Commentary Accuses U.S. of 'Sponsoring Terror'

NC1703121294 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 2

[Commentary by Muhammad Sifr 'Id: "America on Trial"]

[Text] In accordance with U.S. law, the U.S. Government gives itself the right to pursue those it sees as terrorists, detain them at any location, and transport them to the United States to face trial in a U.S. court of justice. Such a procedure is applicable to individuals who attack U.S. citizens or property in any part of the world. Disparities between U.S. and international law in this regard are not seen as representing an obstacle to this effort.

The Government of the United States branded as terrorism the Palestinian acts of resistance against occupation. The United States labeled the PLO "a terrorist organization," a view that was in keeping with the one held by Israel until the PLO signed the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Washington also prepared a list of "countries sponsoring terror," rattling it like a sword in the face of countries with whose policies it disagrees.

The massacre in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron is a classic example of a terrorist operation. This is true by the standards of common sense as well as U.S. and international law. The massacre was perpetrated by Barukh Goldstein, who remained a U.S. citizen even after obtaining Israeli nationality, a practice common among Jewish Americans immigrating to Israel. This gives us the right to ask for the United States to be included on the list of "countries sponsoring terror."

Other reasons reinforce this claim. Goldstein hails from Brooklyn, a hotbed of Jewish fanaticism. Brooklyn is U.S. territory, as you may know, and Goldstein is not the first Jewish terrorist that Brooklyn fired like a gun in the face of the Palestinians in particular and Arab Americans in general.

The U.S. Government allows and even encourages Jewish Americans to collect financial and material donations and send them to Israel. Donations collected in the United States go directly to settlers in the occupied territories, despite a U.S. policy considering the settlements illegal.

The United States can, therefore, be seen as a state that sponsors terror. Although indirectly, the United States encourages Israeli settlers to commit crimes similar to the Hebron massacre.

Islamic Groups Vow To Avenge Executions

NC1803114394 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 18 (AFP)—Egypt's two main armed Islamic groups vowed Friday to avenge the execution of two fundamentalist soldiers and death sentences passed on nine other militants.

In statements issued here, the al-Jihad (holy war) group said it would exact revenge for the death sentences passed on nine members of its military wing Tala'i' al-Fath [Vanguards of Conquest] Thursday by a military court in Cairo for a failed assassination bid on Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi last November in which a schoolgirl died.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) vowed to overthrow the government of President Husni Mubarak following the execution of two fundamentalist soldiers in Alexandria Thursday for plotting to kill the Egyptian leader.

Second lieutenant in the reserves Midhat al-Tahawi and conscript Muhammad Ahmad Sa'id Salih, both members of the al-Jama'ah, were sentenced to death by the Sidi Barrani military court on February 16.

They were accused of having planned an assassination attempt against Mubarak, who was due to visit the Sidi Barrani military base near the Libyan border.

A third soldier condemned to death, Hamadah Muhammad Lutfi, was still on the run. He was also a member of the al-Jama'ah.

The group's statement said Mubarak's murder was "a duty laid down by Shariah (Islamic law)."

It quoted al-Tahawi's "last wish," for Egyptians to become holy warriors and set up an Islamic state. [passage omitted]

Libya

Charges of Country Having Mass Destruction Weapons Denied

LD1503144794 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, al Rabia'a [March] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The INDIAN NEWS AGENCY said that Malcolm Ronil, the director of missile operations in the American Defence Department expressed his country's concern at the development of what he called 'missile programmes' in seven countries: India, North Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Libya, Syria, and Iraq. The agency cited the official as saying that a ballistic missiles programme in these countries constitutes a serious threat to American national interests.

The international affairs editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, commenting on this said that these statements once more expose a series of facts, the most important that, - they are levelled against countries which are neither Christian nor Jewish. This is new proof of plans by the Jewish-Christian alliance against Islam and other non Jewish and non Christian religions, specifically Confucianism and Buddhism. This can be seen given that these statements do not at all mention the nuclear arsenal which the Israelis have, an arsenal including 200 nuclear warheads, which the Israelis have publicly declared to have in their possession. No one has called for the destruction of these weapons nor has anyone expressed concern about their existence. However, the reason is obvious, namely that there will be no objection to these weapons so long as they are aimed at the Arabs, whom, in the eyes of the Christians and Jews, are undesirable animals who should be annihilated.

The Great Jamahiriyah, one of the countries mentioned by the United States has, as a peace loving country, repeatedly asserted that it does not have weapons of mass destruction in its possession, nor does it even consider them, or owning them. Instead, the Great Jamahiriyah is preoccupied with its development programme and building a prosperous life for its people. Therefore, the continuous repetition of such statements which are emanating from the highest American and British official levels if [word indistinct] official terrorism by nuclear superpowers carried out against a peace loving country which is being subjected to unjust harsh measures imposed by these countries which dominate the Security Council and obliges it to adopt resolutions which serve their best interests and their colonialist aims.

None of the countries which the American official listed in his statement have ever attacked the United States or Britain. Indeed, the opposite is true, for these countries have, at various times, been the victim of aggression and colonialism stemming from these two countries themselves. Thus, these countries would normally be expected to think about self defence and ways to prevent aggression and colonialism meted out by these two western countries who until this day have deployed their warships off the shores of these countries in a blatant display of provocation and arrogance.

Wife of Missing Diplomat Appeals to al-Qadhdhafi

PM1603144694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Kikhya's Wife Sends Letter to al-Qadhdhafi: I Am Certain You Will Find Him and Return Him to Us Free"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—Mrs. Baha' al-'Amri, wife of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, sent a letter to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dated 10/4/1994 [as published], appealing to him to "find him and return him free to his children and home."

The letter, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, said: "In the name of freedom of democracy I writing to you to ask about the fate of the Libyan citizen Mansur al-Kikhya, my husband and the father of my children and a respectable man who was abducted from Egyptian territory. I understand from your recent speech that you are seeking to find him because he is a human rights case." She went on: "Three months have elapsed and we do not know who committed this ugly crime. Maybe cowardly elements did, and I am certain that your hands will reach them and that you will punish these cowardly people."

She also pointed out that Libya "does not wish to lose a free and noble man who believes in nothing except right, peace, and dialogue..., and I am certain that you will find him and return him free to his children and home.... You will find him anywhere, inside or outside Libya...it does not matter...what matters is for him to come back to his children, who have not stopped crying." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government, Factions To Hold Talks in Nairobi

EA1403195894 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1605 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, will leave for the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 16 March at the invitation of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. SUNA has learned that the Kenyan president had invited Lt. Gen. al-Bashir to brief him on the meeting of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] presidents held in Nairobi on 9 March with a view to preparing for a round of peace talks under the sponsorship of the IGADD grouping. There will also be consultations between the two presidents on the agenda of the round due to start in Nairobi on 17 March.

SUNA has learned that Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, will lead the government delegation to the talks in Nairobi. The

government delegation will also include the official spokesman of the delegation of the government. The delegation of Garang's faction will be headed by Silva Kiir Mayar Dit. Other members of the delegation will be Deng Alor and Husayn (Bak). The United Faction and other dissident factions have also been invited to participate in the negotiations.

[Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 14 March, in a related report, adds the following: "The government delegation will also include Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the minister at the Office of Federal Rule and the official spokesman of the government delegation to the negotiations; Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, minister of state and legal adviser to the president of the Republic; and others. The delegation of rebel John Garang will be led by Silva Kiir Mayar Dit. The delegation will also include Deng Alor and Justin Yaak. The United Faction and other dissident factions have also been invited to participate in this round of negotiations."]

Leaders Arrive

EA1703131594 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1000 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The presidents of Uganda and Ethiopia arrived today in Nairobi for the launching of the peace talks on the Sudan. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda was the first one to arrive. His plane touched down at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport shortly after 1000. Next to arrive was President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, shortly before 1100. The visiting heads of state were received by their host, who will also chair the talks, President Daniel arap Moi. [passage omitted]

President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan arrived yesterday for the talks.

Later, at State House, Nairobi, the heads of state held a meeting to prepare the warring parties in the Sudan to accept the idea of negotiated settlement of their long-drawn conflict. They also discussed other procedural matters of the peace negotiations.

The IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] committee on peace talks on the Sudan is to officially launch the talks later this afternoon.

Agree To Peace Talks

AB1703175094 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Nairobi, March 17 (AFP)—Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government and mainly Christian and black southern rebels agreed Thursday [17 March] to launch peace talks aimed at ending a decades-old civil war.

The agreement came after hours of closed-door talks here between Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and the presidents of Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, who also met leaders of two rival factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"The government of Sudan and the SPLA factions have stated their readiness to immediately embark on peace negotiations," Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi said.

The six-nation regional organisation, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), has named Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Eritrea to spearhead a new initiative to bring peace to famine-hit Sudan.

The agreement stopped short of declaring a ceasefire in southern Sudan, where the government has taken advantage of tribal divisions in the SPLA to launch a new offensive aimed at crushing the southern rebellion.

But the IGADD presidents said in a press statement that the warring parties had agreed to "desist from esclating hostilities ... in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the negotiations."

"The root causes of the conflict are so complex that previous peace conference have failed to arrive at a peaceful solution," Moi told his fellow heads of state and rebel leaders in a brief open session after the meetings.

"We must be prepared to give peace a chance," Moi said, stressing that Africans had to play a more active role in solving their problems instead of waiting for outside initiatives.

He said the forthcoming negotiations would try to reach "a comprehensive negotiated settlement and urged all sides to allow relief supplies into southern Sudan, where millions depend on food aid.

Kenya's Moi Opens Peace Meeting

EA1703213094 Nairobi KBC Television Network in English 1830 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded; announcer read portions in Swahili]

[Text] The third meeting of the IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] committee was held today at State House Nairobi under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi:

[Moi] "Dear brothers, leaders of the two SPLM/SPLA movement, ladies and gentlemen: Your presence in Nairobi for this crucial meeting of the IGADD committee on the conflict in the Sudan to launch the Sudan peace talks is a clear demonstration of the importance you all attach to the success of the IGADD initiatives. The root causes of this conflict are so complex that numerous previous initiatives have failed to arrive at a peaceful settlement. We must not allow that to happen again, but let us all give peace a chance.

Meanwhile, the long drawn out conflict has cost thousands of lives and led to immeasurable suffering for many more. I have always held the view that we in Africa must not remain passive and wait for outsiders to seek solutions for problems within our continent. Brothers: We ourselves

should take an active role in finding solutions to problems in our continent whether they are political, military, economic or social. [Word indistinct] (?let) all of us assembled here today reiterate our commitment to the noble but difficult task of searching for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Finally and out of this initiative let peace come to the Sudan."

At the end the meeting, a statement was released and read by Kenya's minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka:

[Musyoka] "The IGADD committee met with His Excellency General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the republic of the Sudan, and subsequently met the leaders of the two SPLM/SPLA factions, Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riak Machar, and conducted intensive consultations within itself and the parties concerned and agreed to launch the IGADD peace talks on the Sudan. The committee and the parties to the conflict agreed that pursuant to the mandate given by the meeting of the IGADD summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 6th and 7th September 1993, the negotiations shall take into consideration the previous efforts in search of a solution to the conflict, namely talks held in August 1989 in Addis Ababa, December 1989 in Nairobi, May-June 1992 and April-May 1993 in Abuja and May 1993 in Nairobi.

The committee expressed serious concern at the continued human suffering, misery, famine and disease in the war-affected areas. It was agreed that the parties to the conflict shall allow access to relief agencies to ensure that relief assistance is delivered to suffering people in those areas. The committee also expressed deep concern that the long-drawn [out] conflict was a threat to peace and security in the sub-region

In reference to the stated commitment to the IGADD peace initiative, including their readiness to immediately embark on negotiations, the parties to the conflict agreed to send to the peace talks high-level delegations with full mandates to negotiate.

The committee called upon the parties concerned to the conflict to exercise restraint and desist from escalating hostilities, including actions that might jeopardize the IGADD initiative, in order to create a conducive atmosphere for conduct of negotiations.

The IGADD committee decided the standing committee of ministers of foreign affairs shall conduct the peace negotiations under the supervision of the chairman of the IGADD committee and directed the standing committee to start the negotiating process immediately. The IGADD committee further appealed to the international community to continue supporting the initiative. I thank you Your Excellencies."

Yemen

Shabwah Governor, Security Director Ordered To Leave

NC1603191794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Mar (MENA)—It was learned here today that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], one of the ruling coalition parties in Yemen, used tanks and artillery in the Shabwah Governorate, one of the southern governorates, to surround the governorate headquarters and the Security Directorate headquarters to force Governor Dirham 'Abduh Nu'man, member of the General People's Congress General Committee, and Colonel Ahmad 'Ali Muhsin, the governorate security director and leading member of the General People's Congress in the governorate, to leave the governorate immediately.

The governor and the security director received from the military commander, who belongs to the YSP led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and the YSP secretary in the governorate an urgent ultimatum to immediately leave their workplace in the governorate or they would be driven out by military force. It is worth noting that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is the General People's Congress secretary general in Yemen.

Reform Official Warns Against 'Foreign' Partition Plan

JN1703160294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, 17 Mar (INA)—Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has warned against a foreign and Zionist scheme to partition Yemen into several statelets in order to make it easier to control its oil wealth and strategic location, especially the strait of Bab el Mandeb in the Red Sea.

In statements before Yemeni military units broadcast today, al-Zindani stressed that the scheme to divide Yemen aims at establishing several statelets by inciting tribal and sectarian dissension and paralyzing the state's official institutions in order to drag the Yemeni people into infighting.

He said this scheme is part of a colonialist course that targets not just Yemen, but every Arab attempt to forge a better future in the region. He indicated that anti-Arab foreign forces do not want to see Arabs and Muslims become capable of making any advancement and seek to render them desperate about any chances of progress.

He recalled that the West wagered on fighting among the parties to the Yemeni coalition immediately after the elections, especially between the Islamists—the Yemeni Reform Grouping—and the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Al-Zindani revealed that one of the objectives of the foreign scheme against Yemen is to control or lease the strait of Bab el Mandeb and to establish weak statelets. He indicated that when the Yemenis are unified and strong, foreign powers find it extremely difficult to impose their humiliating conditions.

The statements by al-Zindani, who is a prominent member of the Yemeni Reform Grouping under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, are part of the warnings that the grouping issued to the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party on the gravity of the continued crisis and its effects on the future of Yemen's unity.

Son of Parliament Speaker Escapes Assassination Bid

PM1603152894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Mar 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Hammud Munsir: "Al-Ahmar's Son Escapes Assassination Attempt in Ambush Near Sanaa"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—Shaykh Husayn 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, son of Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], and chieftain of the Hashid tribes, escaped an assassination attempt at 0900 yesterday as he was returning to Sanaa from the northern Khamr region, considered to be the main center of the Hashid tribes. Only one of his guards was wounded in the attempt.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, a source close to Shaykh al-Ahmar said the attempt occurred in an ambush on the northern road outside the town of 'Umran 60 km from Sanaa when the car of a group of tribal gunmen intercepted and collided with the first car in Shaykh al-Ahmar's motorcade which had already overtaken it.

As the motorcade continued its journey with the shaykh's car between two guard cars, a hail of bullets rained on the motorcade from both sides of the road. The guards returned fire and although the attackers concentrated their fire on the shaykh's Mercedes, he was not hurt at all and the attackers fled.

The attempt does not seem to have any political significance and is not linked to the current Yemeni crisis. There is speculation that it might be related to tribal differences. The source said that all members of the attacking group were identified as tribal men but he did not say to which tribes they belonged. He said that they were not from the area where the incident occurred and that they came from other areas. [passage omitted]

GUARDIAN Reveals Plans for 'Surprise' Military Strike

JN1803070794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Report by Huda al-Husayni from London]

[Excerpt] THE GUARDIAN today expects Iraq to launch a surprise military strike. The British newspaper says: Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who has been quiet for a year, will return very soon to his military strategy and deal a lightening strike against Western forces inside and outside Iraq. The newspaper says: The Iraqi president's patience is coming to an end as a result of the embargo imposed by the United Nations since his invasion of Kuwait and the exacerbating economic situation. This, the paper adds, will prompt him to carry out a new bloody adventure.

THE GUARDIAN adds that it has been expected recently that this adventure will be in the form of a military strike or threat against the State of Kuwait or Kurdistan and that this strike will take place next week. THE GUARDIAN bases its expectations on reports that Iraq is beefing up its Armed Forces and deploying them in the North and the South. As a result of this, the paper adds, Iraqis are storing food supplies and drawing large amounts of money from banks. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Meets Vorontsov, Other Security Council Envoys

JN1703210894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2042 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] United Nations, 17 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with a number of ambassadors who are members of the UN Security Council today.

He met at his place of residence with Yuliy Vorontsov, Russia's permanent UN Security Council member. He also met separately with Brazilian envoy Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg and New Zealand envoy [name indistinct].

Tariq 'Aziz is scheduled to meet later today with other UN Security Council envoys before he meets with UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus at his place of residence today, Thursday.

'Aziz Sends Letter to UNSC on Sanctions

JN1703125594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1144 GMT 17 Mar 94

["Text" of letter by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Jean-Bernard Merimee, French permanent representative to United Nations and current president of the UN Security Council, UNSC; on 16 March]

[Text] Your excellency Jean-Bernard Merimee, president of the UN Security Council [UNSC], New York;

Sir;

On the occasion of my visit to New York as head of the Iraqi political and technical delegation, on the occasion of my talks with you and with members of the UNSC, in view of the fact that the date set for the periodic review of the unfair embargo clamped on the Iraqi people since August 1990 is approaching, and having analyzed the situation since Iraq delivered the official letter containing an acceptance of its commitments as enshrined in Resolution 715 on 26 November 1993, I would like to explain the following points:

First, Iraq has honored all its commitments as enshrined in Section C of Resolution 687, namely, Paragraphs 8,9,10,11,12, and 13. It also officially accepted Resolution 715 on 26 November 1993. Likewise, it has demonstrated its willingness to cooperate with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency to enforce the monitoring mechanism and achieve the objectives set forth in Resolution 687 in this regard. It has extended all necessary facilities in this regard. Of particular importance in this regard is the fact that Iraq pledged in October 1993 that the Special Commission and the IAEA would be able to conduct the required inspections, even after Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is implemented per Document No. S/26,571, Paragraph 13.

The very text of Resolution 687 provides that the UNSC shall fully implement Paragraph 22 of the said resolution immediately after Iraq officially accepted Resolution 715, something which has failed to materialize.

In accordance with the promises made by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission, contained in Annex 3 of the joint report submitted to the UNSC in the aftermath of high-level technical talks held in New York in September 1993, per Document No. S/26,451, Paragraph 14 of Annex 2, and Paragraph 7 of the report, the Special Commission was supposed to have quickly embarked on the official implementation of the monitoring measures enshrined in Resolution 715 as of 1 December 1993, particularly since Iraq officially accepted the said resolution on 26 November 1993. Similarly, the chairman of the Special Commission should have submitted his report to the UNSC on Iraq's compliance within a period not exceeding six months from the aforementioned date so that Paragraph 22 may be implemented.

Also worth mentioning in this regard is the fact that the six-month period Ambassador Ekeus spoke about last fall was not originally mentioned in the text of Resolutions 687 and 715. The chairman of the Special Commission imposed it by himself or upon the request of certain states. However, what happened is that after about four months after Iraq's official approval of Resolution 715 on 26 November 1993, the chairman of the Special Commission still did not announce the date of the official start of the implementation of the monitoring system although monitoring procedures actually began before Iraq's official approval of Resolution 715. This is proven by the installation and operation of cameras in October 1993 in the al-Rafah and al-Yawm al-'Azim locations to monitor missile testing. Moreover, three inspection teams observed temporary monitoring measures for three months starting from the beginning of 1993 at the Ibn-al-Haytham Center for Missile Research and some other important installations. This is in addition to the continuous presence of UN

teams for over one and a half years in the al-Muthanna establishment in connection with chemical weapons. Helicopters have been continuously and intensively conducting sorties for surveillance purposes since 1991.

It is also worth mentioning that the IAEA emphasized in October 1993 that it started monitoring procedures 15 months earlier and that it was convinced that the surveillance plan was being implemented satisfactorily and that all the IAEA needed to inform the Security Council of Iraq's compliance with its commitments in accordance with Paragraph 22 was Iraq's official acceptance of Resolution 715, Document F-26571, Paragraphs 16 and 19.

This position by the Special Commission means the Commission will be late in presenting its report on Iraq's compliance with Section C of Resolution 687 to the Security Council so that the latter will consider the implementation of Paragraph 22. This means the postponement of the implementation of Paragraph 22 to an unspecified date. The technical pretexts and excuses being used to justify this behavior are baseless because there is no technical reason whatsoever to make the Special Commission abstain from officially declaring the start of the monitoring plan.

It has become clear to us that the Special Commission's stand is a premeditated political stand instigated by specific parties in the Council, which do not wish to lift the unjust embargo on Iraq and want to impose on Iraq conditions that have nothing to do with the Council's resolutions. They announce policies that are not related to the Council's resolutions, as contained in the article "Confronting the Renegade Countries" published by Anthony Lake, the U.S. President's adviser for national security affairs, in the March 1994 issue of FOREIGN AFFAIRS magazine and the other statements along the same line by U.S. officials.

These quarters exploit their influence in the Council and in the Special Commission to impose the continuation of the embargo on Iraq.

Second: It is impermissible to make the question of maintaining the embargo on Iraq a diplomatic or political game. The embargo has led to the death of Iraqi citizens and to depriving an entire people of normal living conditions. The reports by the UN agencies confirm the tragic results of this unjust embargo, which has been imposed for four years. Warning 237 issued in July 1993 by the joint mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] and the World Food Program and the report by the FAO mission issued in November 1993 evaluating the food situation in Iraq clearly describes this situation. Statistics also show that the mortality rate among children below five years of age has risen sevenfold from 1989 to 1993, and fourfold for those above this age. The comprehensive embargo that has been going on for four years has greatly damaged the level of public services, education, health, transportation, agriculture, civilian industries, environment and all other fields.

From this premise, the approach the Iraqi people and their leadership have toward the embargo issue cannot be one of indulgence toward the timetable certain members or countries view as a political game. For Iraq, this is a question of life and death.

Third, following these experiences, Iraq is not reassured that the Council, in view of the pressure by specific countries, will ever fulfill its obligations since Iraq has already fulfilled its obligations under Section C of Resolution 687. This lack of reassurance reflects itself on Iraq's assessment of the Council's stand on this issue and the other topics mentioned in the other pertinent Council resolutions.

Iraq demands that the Council apply Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 immediately and without any additional restrictions or conditions, that it respect the provisions of its resolutions, that it interpret them in a sound legal manner, and that it reject the tendentious political interpretations of its resolutions that some states are seeking to impose on the Council. Allowing for such political interpretations of resolutions as noted in some parties' statements not only clashes with the provisions of the resolutions themselves, but actually means that every party inside and outside the Council can have its own interpretation. This means that the Council resolutions will have no specific meaning or target.

Fourth, regarding the other topics mentioned in the relevant Security Council resolutions, including the issue of Kuwait, which was raised by some member states in their contacts with the Iraqi side, we would like to point out the following:

A. This issue is absolutely unconnected with the issue of applying Paragraph 22, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 687.

B. Iraq has taken measures regarding this issue in accordance with Paragraph 2A of Resolution 686 of 1991 and informed the Council of this. Iraq has also accepted Resolution 687, which dealt with the subject.

C. It is obvious that when the Council fulfills its commitments toward Iraq as cited in Paragraph 22 and proves its credibility and good intentions toward a UN member state that contributed to the founding of the International organization, and when Iraq feels that its rights and legitimate interests have been respected by the Council and that its sovereignty has been respected by the Council member states, which are violating its sovereignty through the imposition of a ban on military and civilian flights in the north and south and interference in its domestic affairs in all possible means, a new atmosphere will certainly emerge and the issue can then be discussed in accordance with the rules regulating relations among states as cited in the UN Charter and the Arab League Charter, which Iraq has always respected. This atmosphere will also help the Arab states in the region to solve their problems in a peaceful manner on the basis of mutual respect for rights and interests and in accordance with the rules of the Arab League Charter, which regulates relations among the Arab states.

The Security Council can, in such a climate, also contribute to encouraging the Arab states to achieve this objective and in a manner that guarantees the peace and security and rights of states in a fair manner.

Fifth, Iraq hopes these points will be studied very carefully by the Council. When the Security Council asks a certain state to abide by a resolution, the resolution must also be binding on the Council and the Council must apply the commitments stipulated by the Charter or by the resolution itself toward that state. Regarding the resolutions passed on Iraq, their provisions are clear. There are commitments and steps that Iraq is required to implement and Iraq has implemented the substantial parts of them, including all those pertaining to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Therefore, the Council is requested to respect and implement Iraq's rights as stipulated by the Council resolutions. The issue cannot be dealt with by asking one party to honor its commitments without the other party's implementation of its commitments. The continuation of this state, from which the Iraqi people are bitterly and harshly suffering, places the people and leadership of Iraq in a position that will certainly lead to a reassessment of the situation and to an action [tasarruf] that will protect the Iraqi people from the harm to which they are being exposed. We are awaiting tangible steps that we hope will emerge in the near future, foremost of which is the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without additional restrictions or conditions.

Please accept our great respect and appreciation.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, New York, 16 March 1994

UNSC President Cited on Respect for Resolution 715

JN1703203494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] New York/United Nations, 17 Mar (INA)—Jean-Bernard Merimee, French permanent representative to the United Nations and current president of the UN Security Council [UNSC], has said that his country noticed that Iraq did not contradict the statements which showed that it intends to respect the provisions of Resolution 715.

In a speech during the UNSC's review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq last night, he expressed the hope that the Special Commission will be able to put in force the mechanisms to monitor the Iraqi weapons industry.

Merimee added that the effective participation of French experts in the Special Commission's activities proves France's commitment to the implementation of long-term monitoring plans.

The French envoy said his country believes it is very useful that the Special Commission chairman faces the UNSC in order to accurately explain preparations concerning the implementation of Resolution 715, and to establish a timetable defining the beginning of the probation period. He said that four months after Iraq recognized its obligations under Resolution 715, his country believes that the Special Commission should know when it will be prepared to begin long-term verification if Iraq continues its cooperation satisfactorily.

The UNSC president pointed out that after the termination of the six-month probation period, his country will then believe that the time will be appropriate for the UNSC to announce its position toward the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

In his speech, Merimee said that France emphasizes two points. The first is that the progress that has taken place leads France to the conviction that the UNSC cannot continue the same course. He indicated that his country is of the view that it is appropriate for the UNSC to change the routine formula in accordance with which it ends its review of the sanctions. He said that such a change would be through an explicit UNSC indication that progress has actually taken place.

Regarding the second point, the French ambassador to the United Nations said: We now hope we will have a clear idea about the timetable in accordance with which the probation period will commence.

He added: As soon as Iraq officially accepts its commitments in accordance with Resolution 715—and this is what has happened since 26 November 1993—we hope we will obtain clarifications from the Special Commission on its intentions regarding the timetable.

Reports coming from New York indicate that the dispute among the UN Security Council members on the language of the traditional statement issued by the council every two months is still intense. Some UNSC members are demanding that the statement refer to the progress that has been achieved with regard to the implementation of the provisions of Resolution 687 and Iraq's approval of Resolution 715 concerning future monitoring.

This statement is expected to be issued tomorrow, Friday.

'Mammoth' Demonstrations Reportedly Held

JN1703183694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Mammoth popular demonstrations were staged in al-Rasafah, Baghdad, today, through which the masses expressed their full support for the triumphant leader, President Saddam Husayn, until final victory is achieved and the unjust blockade is lifted.

The demonstrators were received by Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al- Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Ba'th party's organizations in al- Rasafah.

During the mammoth demonstrations the slogan of "The people are with the leader to seize our rights to lift the unjust blockade" was raised. The masses of Saddam city renewed full allegiance to the builder of Iraq's great glory and the leader of the march of righteous victory, leader President Saddam Husayn. They stressed that they will continue to be loyal soldiers under the Allahu Akbar [God

is great] banner raised by his excellency, and expressed their readiness to do their utmost to break the unjust blockade in defense of great Iraq, its sovereignty, and dignity.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Ba'th party's organizations in al-Rasafah, stressed that leader President Saddam Husayn's address to the prime minister and ministers was an expression of the conscience of the patient and faithful people who are facing the conspiracy of the unjust blockade with strong faith and consciences.

In a statement to INA, he said: Iraq's masses and party, popular, and trade unionist organizations express their full support fo. what was included in struggler President Saddam Husayn's address in order to sieze our mujahid people's rights and make the UN Security Council lift the unjust blockade after Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions, despite the fact that they are unjust and unfair resolutions.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur noted that the continuation of the unjust blockade under pressure from the United States and Zionism means the continuation of plotting against our Iraq, its present, and the future of its generations. He stressed that the Iraqi people, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, will continue to set an example for Arab and world masses in their confrontation of current injustice and tyranny in the world in light of the so-called new world order, proceeding from the historical fact that the Mother of battles was a nationalist, pan-Arab, and humanitarian battle.

Papers View Adoption of 'Another Path' To End Blockade

JN1703161194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers have denounced the UN Security Council's unjust and arbitrary stand toward Iraq, particularly the unjust resolutions it has issued under pressure by the United States and other parties.

In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-'IRAQ and BABIL noted that the Iraqi side has been very patient, wise, and responsible in order to remove the covers intended to be the cornerstone of the blockade conspiracy. They stressed that the United States, through the UN Special Commission, deliberately pushed escalation and maneuvering, refusing to admit that Iraq has shown every form of cooperation, and that the unjust blockade imposed on it is no longer justified.

AL-'IRAQ says: The Special Commission, which is fully aware of Iraq's implementation of the clauses of Section C, has, many times, used double standards that raised doubts and suspicions. This was revealed by the foreign minister in his television interview the day before yesterday, in which he said that the Special Commission's chairman had signed official and documented minutes of meetings in Baghdad that prove Iraq's commitment, and, at the same time, made statements outside Iraq that conflict with these minutes. He stressed that all this took place in accordance with U.S. inspirations, whose motives and objectives have been exposed.

The paper adds: Even stranger is that the UN Security Council and the Special Commission premeditatedly imposed a news blackout on Iraq's sincere stands and cooperation, and misinterpret the paragraphs and statements that prove this.

The paper notes that the current approaches at the UN Security Council prove the isolation of the United States and its wicked efforts to maintain the blockade and to evade its legal, moral, and political responsibilities toward Iraq.

The paper calls on the UN Security Council to behave in accordance with its true task, namely, to maintain peace, to remove injustice which is the result of the unfair and irresponsible U.S. stands, and to take the only action that will prove it is up to the responsibilities entrusted to it by the international community, namely, to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The newspaper BABIL says: During his meeting with the prime minister and the ministers four days ago, President Saddam Husayn defined the contents of the decisive Iraqi confrontation with the enemies. He has also frankly explained the premeditated objectives of America and those who revolve in its orbit of maintaining the unjust blockade against Iraq, despite the fact that it has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the unfair UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper touches on the role of the Iraqi will in achieving victory over our enemies in our decisive battle, the battle of lifting the blockade. It stresses that it is a comprehensive economic, political, social, cultural, and moral battle in which the efforts of good Iraqis must be pooled in all walks of life and at all production sites.

The paper explains that Iraq's decisive determination to lift the comprehensive blockade will lead to the adoption of another path that will open the doors of hope for our people and enable them to embark on mighty revolutionary action, in light of the international changes in favor of our just stand made possible by our steadfastness and patience.

Paper Questions 'Usefulness' of Abiding by UN Resolutions

JN1803105694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA)—Two Iraqi papers have denounced the U.S. Administration's attitude concerning the lifting of the blockade that is still imposed on the Iraqi people even after Iraq has fully complied with all UN resolutions.

In their analyses today, AL-'IRAQ and AL-THAWRAH say that Washington is working on employing the economic embargo as a political framework to serve its imperialist goals in the region.

AL-'IRAQ draws the world's attention to the dangers of the U.S. exploitation of world organizations. It says: The Security Council's failure to assert its independence and its submission to the desires of a policy that is unrelated to the international legitimacy or the UN Security Council's resolutions will turn the Council into a tool for mass murder against the Iraqi people.

AL-IRAQ questions the usefulness of the Iraqi people's and leadership's continued adherence to and compliance with the resolutions of the Security Council, which does not respect its own obligations and resolutions. It urges the peace and freedom loving nations to stress the independence of their positions and adopt positive steps that would end the U.S. hegemony over the UN resolutions and the power to issue UN resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH says fairness must dominate relations between Iraq and world organizations after the exacerbation of the state of injustice and unfairness that has afflicted Iraq as a result of the economic embargo imposed against it.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: It has become clear that those who oppose the lifting of the embargo now have nothing to justify their opposition. If the logic of brute force, deception, and extortion is all they have to rely on, their position is now more exposed than ever before.

The paper stresses that the U.S. Administration is losing much of its power and influence in the world by insisting on entrenching this despicable, hostile action, represented by the blockade. The paper urges the U.S. Administration to benefit from the lessons of the past three years with their major events. It stresses that these events have not been able to harm the substance of the Iraqi steadfastness despite the significant size of the scheme and despite what was offered by the agents and the regional traitors and mercenaries.

Rabin, 'Arafat Discuss Resumption of Talks

TA1803151694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] This afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat spoke on the phone for 15 minutes. They discussed the possibility of resuming the peace talks. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Rabin initiated the conversation. It appears that no Jewish site in Hebron will be evacuated at this time.

Minister Moshe Shahal estimated today that the talks between the PLO and Israel will resume before the Passover holidays [starting on 27 March]. Regarding the Waqf decision to ban the entry of non-Muslims to the Temple Mount, Minister Shahal said that Israel will not accept the Waqf decision, but stressed that such disagreements are better solved through silent diplomacy.

Rabin Promises to SHAS Mentor Detailed

TA1703193594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Israel will not agree to reopen the Oslo and Cairo agreements. This transpires from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's letter to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel obtained a version of the letter, which paved the way for SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] return to the government. These are the four points that Rabin promised SHAS: The Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians and the Cairo agreement will not be reopened for negotiations; Jerusalem will remain the united capital of Israel and under complete Israeli sovereignty. Rabin also promised Rabbi Yosef not to compromise with the Palestinians on the right of return, except for cases of family reunification, and that any peace agreement involving a return of territory will be brought for a public decision by means of a referendum or elections.

Rafi Edri, who is directing the negotiations with SHAS on behalf of Labor, submitted the coalition agreement with SHAS as well as the letter to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef to the Knesset's table.

Peres on 'Arafat Meeting, IDF Base Relocation

TA1803075194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] In a telephone interview by Mikha Friedman earlier this morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was asked to confirm the report we received from Tunis about a forthcoming meeting between him and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Right now it is more of a radio encounter, because no date for such a meeting has been actually set.

[Friedman] But a date and a place is being sought, because the two of you want to meet.

[Peres] It is not a question of our wanting to meet. I think the negotiations must be resumed in the appropriate manner and with momentum. The Hebron tragedy undoubtedly created a new situation which has to be addressed and overcome, and conclusions should be drawn from it.

[Friedman] Is it true that there is talk of some kind of sequential deal under which Israel would be prepared to....

[Peres, interrupting] I do not like the word deal; we do not need deals. We would like to address every issue on its value. There is a mutual interest in preventing the killing of both Arabs and Jews. The present situation is truly intolerable.

[Friedman] Is it possible that Shim'on Peres' view that the Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron is detrimental and injurious to the peace process may be adopted—at least in part—and that as a result, all the Jews residing in the heart of Arab Hebron will soon be moved to one site?

[Peres] What is certain is that we would not discuss such an issue with any foreign, non-Israeli element. Israel would have to make such a decision alone, independently, taking its own factors into consideration. This is not an issue for negotiation. At the same time, the way the Jews are sprawled out in Hebron is unquestionably awful: We are spread out over five sites, one of which is inhabited by eight families, each living in a camper. This causes us much concern. Hebron is still under curfew, but that is no long-term solution and they have been under curfew for a long time already. I regret to say that the dream of coexistence between settlers and Palestinians received a terrible blow in the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

[Friedman] To make your Sunday meeting with 'Arafat possible, the government will have to make the decision on Hebron sooner than planned.

[Peres] I do not know; I do not think one depends on the other.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, we disclosed this morning that two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases have been moved from densely populated Arab areas in Gaza. I would like to ask you whether that is part of our gestures to 'Arafat and part of the evacuation and redeployment process, which has started despite the absence of a relevant political decision.

[Peres] No, that has absolutely nothing to do with the negotiations. It has to do with the IDF deployment in the Strip. There are places where the IDF is being reinforced and others where it is reducing its presence in anticipation of future deployment, but these are unilateral Israeli steps.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome. [end recording]

IDF Evacuation of 2d Gaza Base Reported

TA1803070494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has moved two bases from densely populated Arab areas in the Gaza Strip

to other locations. This is part of the IDF's redeployment in anticipation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement with the Palestinians. IDF sources stressed that the evacuation of troops from refugee camps will be carried out concurrently with progress in the talks with the PLO. Our Army affairs correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda has more details:

Two bases have been evacuated within three days—one in Gaza's Rimal neighborhood two days ago, and another, a Border Police base in Rafah, which was moved yesterday to the southern sector headquarters from which the Border Police will continue their operations in the Rafah area in the same scope of deployment and activity. Army sources said that in the framework of the numerous logistic changes carried out in the Gaza Strip recently, buildings and troops have been relocated and, in some cases, troops have been concentrated in one central location from which they are to continue their operations before and after the implementation of autonomy. The sources stressed that the volume of the IDF's operations has not changed; on the contrary, it has been increased recently, resulting in the successful apprehension of many fugitives and the foiling of terrorist attacks. The sources further emphasized that the pace of troop evacuation from refugee camps will be tied to the progress of the talks with the PLO. [passage omitted]

The structures from the two evacuated bases will be moved to outposts currently under construction near Jewish settlements in the Strip. It should be noted that the construction of these outposts is at an advanced stage. The IDF preparations for redeployment include the imminent transfer of several other bases. Defense establishment elements stressed this morning that the Gaza and Jericho redeployment can be completed within a few weeks after the agreement is signed.

Soldiers' Testimony Contradicts 'Accepted' Version

TA1703164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Now to the inquiry commission into the massacre of Muslims at prayer at a mosque in Hebron's Cave of the Patriarchs. David Eppel, who has been listening to the evidence, reports here on two new versions of what happened on the morning of the crime; versions that surprised the bench and produced some intensive cross questioning.

[Begin Eppel recording] What exactly were the orders given soldiers when Jewish settlers opened fire on Palestinians? Did Barukh Goldstein, the killer, carry the standard M-16 assault rifle or was it a shortened version of the Galil, the Galon. These were the critical questions as the inquiry commission probed deeper into the circumstances surrounding the massacre in Hebron. If, as four soldiers at the cave claimed in their testimony today, Goldstein carried an M-16, it not only contradicts the account given by their deputy company commander Rotem Ravivi, but the version accepted by everyone until now, including the defense establishment. Two of the four soldiers said they saw another settler, whom they were unable to identify, entering the Cave of the Patriarchs around the same time as Goldstein. He, they said, was carrying a Galon, the rifle Goldstein was assumed to have used. Other facts emerging today concerned shots fired by men on guard duty at the door of the Muslim place of worship. Some bullets fired into the air also hit the ceiling. Time and again at this afternoon's session, the bench wanted to hear from the soldiers giving evidence or members of the Tank Corps how they interpreted the open-fire orders. And to a man, they said they had been ordered not to shoot at Jewish settlers if they were using their guns on Palestinians. If they were being shot at, the directive was to take cover and try to remove the magazine from the gun. Several agreed they considered the order illogical, as they put it, and in two instances they expressed their reservations. But beyond that, under questioning, they agreed they would obey it even if they themselves had come under fire. [end recording]

The commission goes into recess this evening and the proceedings resume again next week.

New Jewish Underground Issues Ultimatum to Rabin

TA1803111094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Text] Kahana Hay activists have threatened attacks along the lines of the Hebron massacre if the Israeli Government does not revoke its decision to outlaw their organization.

In a statement delivered over the telephone to the local YEDI'OT AHARONOT offices on behalf of the organization, which is now calling itself "The Unified Command of the Global Uprising," the callers mentioned the existence of an underground group for the first time.

The message said that if the Rabin government does not accept their ultimatum by Lag B'Omer (29 April), the "'Unit of the God of Vengeance,' the military arm of the unified Jewish uprising, will follow the example set by the hero and martyr Barukh Goldstein." The message also stated that the organization would launch violent activities even earlier "if Rabin increases his persecution of us or if the Jewish settlers are evacuated from Hebron." The group also demanded the immediate release of Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, the leader of Kahana Hay.

The sources who delivered the message clarified that the attacks would be carried out only against Arabs, not Jews. The message also stated that if the ultimatum is rejected, the Arabs "will have no respite in this country and the ground will burn under their feet day and night, in the streets, their homes, and the mosques."

According to the callers, supporters of the movement have flown to Israel from Europe over the past few days and are now operating clandestine cells.

Waqf Closes Temple Mount to Non-Muslims

TA1803055194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The waqf, the Islamic trust in charge of Muslim shrines, has decided not to allow non-Muslims to enter the Temple Mount. Waqf spokesman 'Adnan al-Husayni said the decision was taken because the police have damaged the right of freedom of religion by placing limitations on the age and numbers of worshipers allowed to enter the Temple Mount. [passage omitted]

Commentator Views 'Goldstein Tax'

TA1703094894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Mar 94 p 2

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Nahum Barne'a: "The Goldstein Tax"]

[Text] Yesterday Rabin promised to give the PLO an advance payment for the massacre in Hebron. At this stage, we are talking about a symbolic payment, about gestures, about Israeli measures which will somewhat ease the life of the Arabs in Hebron.

We are not talking about reopening the Oslo and Cairo agreements, pulling the settlers out of Hebron, or deploying an international force, as 'Arafat demanded.

Perhaps we are talking about lifting the curfew, handing the central bus station in Hebron back to the Arabs, giving more authority to the qadi in the Cave of the Patriarchs, a plan for a Palestinian policing force which would be controlled by Israel but would get its authority from the PLO.

Of course, this is only the beginning. Rabin promised to pay, and Rabin keeps his promises: He will pay. This will be the Goldstein tax.

The ideas Israel raised to date about the form of payment have been rejected by Tunis. They were "nonstarters," just as 'Arafat's demands were "nonstarters" as far as Rabin was concerned. However, the principle was established. The Americans will be the ones who will set the final price tag.

Half a year ago, on a hot and steamy day, Rabin and 'Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn. Then they said the Gaza-Jericho agreement would be signed on 13 December. Then they put it off to 13 January, and later to 13 April.

Yesterday, on a bone-chilling day, Rabin spoke for the first time about early summer as the new date for the signing of the agreement.

When the date of Rabin's visit was set, Israel thought it would be the opening shot for practical talks with Syria. However, this was not the case, which is also part of the Goldstein tax. Last night Rabin confirmed that Israel cannot wave the threat of reaching a separate agreement with Syria in 'Arafat's face. "It would boomerang against us," he said, "the Syrians will not show up before the Palestinians return to the negotiating table."

It was a melancholic visit.

The President, who had just returned from an exhausting political campaign in New Hampshire, almost fell asleep at the podium. Secretary of State Christopher, just back from Asia, listened to Rabin's remarks amid a deep slumber. Everybody has been through a lot since September, and none of it has been good. Rabin said Israeli prime ministers used to come to Washington with shopping bags. "The only item in my bag is promoting peace," he asserted

Rabin could not say whether he was leaving Washington with a full bag. He will have to fill up his bag with goods when he gets back home.

Rabin's Statements in U.S., Status of Talks Viewed

JN1703134394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Mar 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Rabin Will Not Bargain on Israel's Security!!!"]

[Text] This large-scale diplomatic and political activity on Israel's part toward the United States and its allies may prevent the UN Security Council from adopting a just resolution on the massacre at holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington and his meetings with President Clinton and his staff are an escalation of this Israeli activity. This is especially so since Rabin's visit coincides with the date set by the Security Council to adopt its resolution on the massacre at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque. Yitzhaq Rabin is depending totally on the U.S. to prevent the UN Security Council from adopting a decisive resolution that secures protection for the Palestinian people from the Zionist settlers and the oppression of the Israeli occupation soldiers.

It is well known that the U.S. role to date has prevented the Security Council from adopting such a resolution. What is worse is that Yitzhaq Rabin declared in Washington that he is not willing to commit himself to any UN resolution that contradicts Israel's intentions. He rejects sending a UN peace-keeping force to the occupied Palestinian territories. He also refuses to evacuate the settlements and disarm the settlers.

What is even worse is Rabin's statement that Israel will not bargain over its security!!! Meanwhile, the security of the Palestinian people, including women, children, and the elderly, is not important to Rabin and his government.

Yitzhaq Rabin is turning the equation upside down. He is demanding security for the Israelis and the terrorist settlers instead of committing himself to protecting the Palestinian people under the wicked Israeli occupation.

The U.S. Administration, in the first place, and the big influential countries in the UN Security Council, in the second place, should adopt a just resolution that forces Israel to abandon its intransigence, accept the formation of an international force to protect the Palestinian people, and agree to evacuate the settlements and disarm the settlers. Otherwise, the peace process, which these countries are concerned about, will come to a crossroads with no clear directions or become permanently paralyzed.

The peace desired by the Palestinians and the Arabs is not just any kind of peace. A peace that is established at the expense of the Palestinian people, who are facing campaigns of containment and annihilation, is no peace at all.

Paper Criticizes UN Stand Toward Embargo on Iraq

JN1803143294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Security Council is Exacerbating the Security Situation in the Region"]

[Text] Once again, the U.S. Administration and its NATO allies are interfering in the UN Security Council to prevent it from adopting a resolution to lift the unjust embargo on fraternal Iraq. Once again, the U.S. Administration has revealed its blatant hostility toward Iraq and the entire Arab nation.

It is also clear that deeply ingrained grudges are behind maintaining the embargo on the people and children of Iraq in order to starve them and allow serious diseases to destroy hundreds of thousands of them.

Since Iraq was totally committed to implementing many Security Council resolutions and cooperated with UN inspection teams to destroy their advanced strategic weapons, the Security Council member states could not find anything with which to justify their stand that is hostile to the people of Iraq and to validate the nonlifting of the unjust embargo on its sons and children. So, they armed themselves with false and baseless pretexts.

The Security Council has proven, once again, that it is using double standards in dealing with international issues and that it is a tool devoted to serving the U.S. stand at the expense of persecuted and oppressed peoples.

This exposed double standards in the Security Council's practices made it lose the confidence of nations and peoples of the world it.

Therefore, Iraq had no other choice but to signal that it will reconsider its method of dealing with the Security Council and will resort to whatever could save its people and children from possible perdition if the embargo on it continues.

It seems that Iraq is about to lose its patience toward the UN Security Council's stands and the role of the influential big countries in it. Moreover, it may resort to any stand that is not within the calculations of the U.S. Administration and its allies or within the calculations of the spiteful ones who continue to seek revenge from the the people of Iraq.

From this premise, one can say that the U.S. Administration and its allies should reconsider their calculations, review their stand on the embargo, and seek to end it in order to avoid any developments with untold consequences.

Judge Issues Warrants for Suspected Church Bombers

NC1803105994 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Judge Joseph Furayhah, the judicial investigator in the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church, has received the results of the investigation into the case. After questioning the suspects who are in custody, Judge Furayhah issued detention warrants against some and arrest warrants against fugitives on charges of participating in the operation. The security agencies have been instructed to pursue and arrest the fugitives.

Security and judicial sources have declined to reveal the names and number of the detained and wanted suspects to preserve the confidentiality of the investigation and the arrests.

Al-Hariri Leaves for Paris on Private Visit

NC1703173694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] At 1730 today, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, accompanied by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, left Beirut by private plane for a private visit to Paris.

Lebanese Forces Members Named in Assault Case

NC1703183994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The Public Relations Department of the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces issued the following statement today:

Subsequent to an earlier statement by the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces about the assault on Monsignor Ilyas al-Habr in Sayyidat al-Intiqal [Our Lady of the Assumption] Church, the Greek Catholic sect's church in al-Ashrafiyah, this is to report that it just so happens that the two arrested suspects Faris Philip al-Hajj, born in Harat Hurayk in 1950, currently residing in [place-name indistinct]; and Nabil Ptikoyan, born in al-Hadath in 1965 and currently resident of al-Jummayzah, are Lebanese Forces members. They constituted a two-man [word indistinct] in al-Shahruri Barracks in al-Ashrafiyah. Investigations continue.

A former statement by the directorate announced that Muhammad al-Hajj 'Ali, born in 1971 and currently resident of Tariq al-Jadidah was also involved in the incident and indeed is owner of the vehicle used in the assault.

Membership of Subjects Denied

NC1803073594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has commented on the statement issued by the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces on the arrest of Faris Philip al-Hajj and Nabil (Krikorian) as follows:

The Lebanese Forces would like to point out the following:

1. Around 150,000 personnel joined the Lebanese Forces departments between 1977 and 1991, the year the militias were disbanded. The Lebanese Forces have no proof that the two suspects joined any of its administrative departments.

2. The Lebanese Forces started to keep records of its personnel in 1981 but these two names have appeared in none of the Forces' records. So the Lebanese Forces categorically deny that the two suspects have been among its members at any time since 1981.

The Forces strongly condemn the crimes committed by the two, including plunder, robbery, and assault against a clergyman, and calls on the Lebanese judiciary to hand down the maximum punishment on them and on others who commit similar acts, even Lebanese Forces members. The Lebanese Forces would like to draw the public's attention to some malicious campaigns that seek to serve political goals that are known to everybody.

Reports, Commentaries Note Clinton-Rabin Talks

'Arafat Urged To Resume Talks

JN1703081894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Washington—U.S. President Bill Clinton has met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the White House to discuss with him how the stalled Israeli-PLO peace talks, suspended in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre, can be resumed. President Clinton and Rabin urged PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to resume the talks with Israel.

In a joint news conference with Rabin at the end of their talks yesterday, Clinton said that he believes that 1994 can still be the year of peace in the Middle East. He added: We are now closer to an agreement than we were a year ago, but further away from a peace agreement than we were a month ago.

For his part, Rabin urged 'Arafat to end his boycott of the talks on Palestinian autonomy in occupied Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

In a separate development, the spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Cairo has asserted that the U.S. stand on the status of the occupied city of Jerusalem has remained unchanged.

In a statement to the Voice of America radio yesterday, the U.S. official denied the statement Israel Radio has attributed to U.S. President Clinton, in which he reportedly said that his country views the unified city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. She emphasized that no U.S. official has made such a statement.

Radio Views Rabin's Visit

JN1703170294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Contrary to the Israeli rulers' normal practice when they visit Washington, Yitzhaq Rabin, before meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said he did not go to Washington this time to ask for financial or military aid.

Rabin's remark means Israel no longer needs to ask for such aid, because this aid has become a routine practice. Successive U.S. Administrations have never failed to extend aid to Israel. They are so generous that their aid to Israel exceeds that extended to any other U.S. ally. This aid has turned Israel into the largest military arsenal, with the most sophisticated weapon systems, including nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction.

The question asks itself: If Rabin did not go to Washington to ask for military and financial aid, what did he really want? It is not difficult for anyone following events to find the answer in the political situation created by the Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre in Hebron. This situation halted the Washington peace talks segment of the peace process and stopped the continued talks between the Rabin government's delegates and representatives of the Palestinian side that signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The massacre in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque covered the peace process in a flagrant terrorist curtain of blood and fire. It offered one more proof of the Israeli rulers' policy to foil the peace process and prevent it from advancing one step forward after the Madrid conference more than two years ago.

Justifications and hollow words meant to calm emotions could not save the Rabin government from being held responsible for this abominable massacre. Thus, Rabin went to Washington facing a real impasse as a result of his policy to defend the illegal settlements. These settlements expressed adherence to policies of regional expansion and altering the geographic and demographic nature of the Israeli-occupied territories. Israel wants to impose the illegal presence of these settlements on the whole world as an accomplished fact.

The Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre has clearly and irrevocably revealed the true positions of the Rabin government. It has also revealed that this government is just an alleged dove of peace, and that it is essentially hostile to peace, just like all previous Israeli governments.

However, the Rabin government, which deceitfully raised the slogan of peace with one hand while committing daily crimes and massacres with the other hand, has reaped evil results and fallen into the traps it set for the peace process. The bargaining chips of peace, which this government has used since it assumed power, have lost their value. Hence, Rabin's visit to Washington under these circumstances is proof of the deep and complicated crisis facing his government. It is also proof of the special relationship between the U.S. Administration and Israel, and of the extent of this administration's ability to convince the Israeli rulers of whatever it wishes.

The new political situation—represented by both the Rabin government's state of affairs and the power to convince the Israeli rulers that the U.S. Administration enjoys—makes the United States assume an additional great responsibility. This is because the United States is the superpower that assumes special responsibility toward both global peace and international legitimacy, in its capacity as the country that unleashed the Middle East peace process.

From this premise, the current circumstances seem very appropriate for the U.S. Administration to play its role in having Rabin comply with the U.S. peace initiative and announce his acceptance of the bases of this initiative in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy in the region.

No one can deny that the Arabs, led by Syria, contributed to unleashing and preserving this peace opportunity. Without the Syrian position in particular, doors would not have been opened for the peace process, and the peace talks would not have begun in Madrid and resumed in Washington. This is because Israel officially rejected the

U.S. initiative in writing. Moreover, Israel has thus far rejected the bases of the peace process.

Syria—which showed cooperation to render the peace process a success and which really wants to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that will return territories and rights to their owners and preserve the dignity of all parties—does not have any problem with the U.S. Administration. Likewise, the Arab side, as a whole, does not have any problem with the U.S. Administration. Syria and other Arab parties hope the U.S. Administration will manage to revive the peace process before the latter is finished off by the Israeli Government's policy and positions that obstruct this process.

The only way to make the U.S. initiative a success and break the deadlock in the peace talks is the acceptance by the Israeli rulers of the bases of this process, their respect for international legitimacy, and their relinquishment of the policy of regional expansion, racist fanaticism, war crimes, and annihilation. The U.S. Administration is primarily responsible for achieving this objective. It is a problem between the U.S. Administration and Israel, and not between this administration and the Arabs. The key to resolving this problem is in Washington's hand.

Al-Shar' Reacts to Meetings

NC1703183694 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Report by Anis Abu-al-'Ila in Bonn]

[Excerpt] In the first official reaction to statements made yesterday by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the developments of peace in the Middle East, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said in an exclusive statement to the MBC:

[Begin al-Shar' recording] The requirements of peace are well known: Full [Israeli] withdrawal and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. For security and stability to be achieved in the region, the peace process must be comprehensive. Otherwise, it remains merely talk that will not produce concrete results; on the contrary, using hollow expressions about peace without real results will lead to terrorism and violence, as happened in the massacre at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque. [end recording]

The statement was given during al-Shar's current three-day visit to Bonn. [passage omitted]

Syrian Official Urges U.S. Pressure on Israel

PM1803095194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by al-Ustuwani: "Damascus Urges Washington To Resolve Current Peace Process Impasse"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Syria yesterday urged the United States to act effectively to resolve the current peace process impasse. A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel caused that impasse and that only international and U.S. action can resolve it by putting pressure on Israel to return to the basis on which the peace initiative was founded, and by doing that on all fronts without putting pressure on the Palestinians to implement the Oslo agreement, because that agreement has been proven to be a failure and is unacceptable to the Palestinian people.

The source said that there was no alternative to an Israeli declaration of willingness to withdraw completely from all the occupied territories in order to ensure the success of the negotiations. He added that the settlements issue has become an urgent matter which must be discussed to determine the fate of the settlers and to work for their evacuation from the occupied Arab territories because they have become a daily threat and danger to the Palestinian people, as Hebron's al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre demonstrated.

The official said that the aim of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States was to make Washington pressure the Palestinians into completing the separate peace agreement to enable the occupation authorities to impose the settlements for five more years at least, and also to paralyze the Security Council and prevent it passing an anti-Israel resolution and providing protection for the Palestinian people.

He said that Syria was still interested in peace and had from the beginning responded to the prerequisites of the peace process, but Israel was placing many obstacles in the way of any progress. There will be no progress, he said, as long as Israel continues to pursue a policy which does not serve peace in any way. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports League Statement on Jerusalem

JN1803080094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The Arab League Secretariat has stressed its adherence to the resolutions of international legitimacy, foremost of which is UN Security Council Resolution 252 of 1968 which emphasized the legal status of the occupied Arab Jerusalem.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Secretariat said any measures seeking to change the status of occupied Jerusalem are null and void. It notes that said resolution calls on Israel to immediately stop any acts that would change the status of Jerusalem.

Iran

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers

LD1803115594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpts] On the eve of the Iranian new year, and on the last Friday of 1372 [year ending 20 March], the political-religious rites of Friday prayers were staged throughout the country today, with the extensive participation of the worshiping masses. In Tehran, the Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati.

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran expressed congratulations on the occasions of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr and the auspicious new year. He stressed that people should use such occasions in order to perform good deeds, in particular deeds such as giving charity and aid to the poor and the underprivileged. [passage omitted]

In his second sermon, Ayatollah Jannati thanked the Majles for its careful, timely, and skillful debate on the budget bill. He then referred to the anniversary of the Halabjah tragedy and the silence of international forums, in particular the so-called defenders of human rights, on that and other tragedies, such as the recent atrocity at the Hebron mosque and the continuing criminal acts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: These realities show that what is at present being said in the West about human rights is nothing but a political ploy. This ploy, however, is now old and rotten, and it should be clear to every one now that the greatest violator of human rights in the world is in fact America.

He stressed: Such insinuations do not, and will never, have any effect whatsoever on the resolute will of the Muslim nation of Iran, and the struggle of the resilient nation of Iran against global arrogance will continue under the wise leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

Guardian Council Approves New Budget Plan

LD1703124794 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA—The Guardian Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran approves the balanced budget plan for the new calendar year, 1373 (to start March 21) with a total amount of rls. 69,772.75 billion.

In view of materialization of the figure envisaged as state revenues, the Majles approved the total budget rls 10,000 billion lower than proposed by the government. The general budget of the government for the new year has been predicted at rls. 32,303.35 billion.

The experience of the past two years over non-materialization of state revenues as predicted by the budget plan, made the parliament adopt a realistic approach towards the figures in this year's budget plan and to consider parameters outside the country effective in state revenues and to base the revenues and state expenditure on realism.

Of the total state revenues set at rls. 30,048.9 billion from public and other resources, rls. 2,254.4 billion will be provided by special incomes of ministries and state institutions.

In view of the sharp fall in oil prices on the world market, the Majles decided to limit the income earned through sale of oil to dlrs reduced at dlrs. 10.154 billion [as received]. If oil revenues go up during the year, the extra amount will be spent to repay government commitments in hard cash or to carry out some development plans.

In the calendar year of 1372 [ending 20 March 1994], the total amount of state revenues from oil sales was set at dlrs. 16.8 billion, of which according to Majles Vice-Speaker Hāsan Rowhani Iran got dlrs. 4 billion lower than expected from the oil sales.

He said that in the course of the first development plan, Iran lost dlrs., 6.4 billion due to the fall in value of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies. Though the revenues in hard cash from oil sales are not much, but the Islamic Republic of Iran has reached understandings with the two main creditor banks of Japan and Germany to reschedule payment of dlrs. 4.6 billion, which is owed by Iranian companies to the Japanese amd German companies. Iran's schedulled commitments in the past year was reduced by 50 percent and it is expected that similar understandings would be reached with the creditors and the scheduled payments would be met and the growing demands for foreign currencies to pay the commitments would fall.

According to the new year budget plan, the Majles allowed the government to repay dlrs. 1,600 billion by the end of the year.

The Majles approved that dlrs. 800 million be spent on basic commodities including wheat, cooking oil, rice, meat, and sugar. The government was allowed to spend dlrs. 400 million to produce and import pharmaceuticals and milk powder.

The Majles also allocated dlrs. 30 million to be spent on higher specialized courses and dlrs. 80 million to provide students abroad with hard cash. The total amount of foreign currency stood at dlrs. 1,310 million.

In order to finance development projects such as dams and hydraulic power plants, dlrs 2.3 billion were set aside for the Energy Ministry while dlrs. 150 million was earmarked for the sugar-cane projects and related industries. The share of the fisheries was set at dlrs. 100 million through joint investment and buy-back scheme to carry out its development plans.

The Majles said that dlrs. 6 billion are to be spent on economic development plans of the country. The Majles said the Ministry of Energy is to supply 1,080 villages across the country with electricity, while the Ministry of

Posts, Telegraph, and Telephones would set up telecommunications links in 500 villages.

The Construction Jihad Ministry is expected to supply 1,000 villages with drinking water, while the Ministry of Transport will improve railway services and construct 1,000 kms of new rural roads in the new year. Money coming from the sale of the shares of factories under the organization of development and renovation of national industries of Iran, will be paid to the Ministry of Education for spending on its development plans. Another rls. 10 billion expected to come from the sale of shares of the factories will enable the setting up of 70 technical and vocational centers. At least rls. 410 billion has been earmarked to carry out infrastructural plans in the deprived areas of the country.

Two-thirds of the income from taxes on imported cigarettes and 60 percent of the customs for export of pistachios will be channelled towards the Martyr Raja'i relief plan.

In order to finance health services, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education was given the go ahead to spent money earned through issuing of licences for sanitary-ware producing units, on modernizing of laboratories and improving the quality of pharmaceuticals.

Privatization has been envisaged in the new year's budget plan to a large extent. A considerable amount of money coming from the sale of shares of producing units under the industrial ministries will go towards social projects including those of the Ministry of Education. In other words, the budget for such projects will not be provided if the process of privatization does not continue in the course of the new year.

An important objective of the budget plan is to allocate state revenues in hard cash for basic projects in the oil, industry, energy, social welfare, education, health and other sectors for developing backward and remote areas of the country.

'Secret' Report Says 11 Dead, 500 Wounded in Clashes

PM1703144094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Tehran: Eleven Dead, 500 Wounded in Clashes With Police"]

[Excerpt] Paris—Sources in Tehran, quoting a secret report they obtained, have said that 11 people were killed and over 500 wounded the day before yesterday in large-scale and violent clashes between security forces and citizens celebrating the traditional "fire day."

Ayatollah Khomeyni was the first to oppose this day being marked by the Zoroastrian sect, on the grounds that it is part of idolatrous rituals that conflict with Islam. Although the regime failed to prevent all citizens from marking the occasion by igniting fires in public places and the yards of houses, it maintained the ban without displaying great enthusiasm for its implementation.

But this year Ayatollah Khamene'i, spiritual guide of the Islamic Republic, issued orders to put security forces on alert and deploy them in all major cities, especially Tehran, "to eliminate from the streets any signs of the atheists' celebrations."

According to the report, the clashes between security forces and demonstrators, the majority of whom were young men, began after midday the day before yesterday and continued until late at night. Eleven people, among them one policeman, were killed and 530 wounded, among them 180 security men. And 2,598 were arrested, many of whom were released after interrogation.

Religious authorities imposed a media blackout on the clashes, but sources close to security forces and the Information Ministry described the clashes as "unprecedented and organized."

Opposition sources in Iran have confirmed the occurrence of the clashes. A report released by the Iranian National Party, one of the oldest secular political organizations in the country, said that "street battles broke out between citizens and security forces in Tehran and the neighborhoods of Akbatan, Ghisha, Aryashahr, and Shahrak Gharb..., and security forces opened fire and used tear gas." [passage omitted]